MONDAY
February 13, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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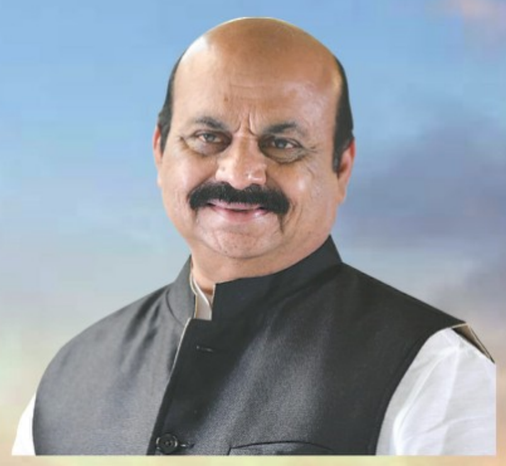
FOR NAVA BHARAT

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Karnataka Soars High in Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing under the able leadership of

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Narendra Modi

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- Karnataka contributes 65% of India's total Aerospace and Defence exports.
- A quarter of India's aircraft and spacecraft industry is based in Karnataka.

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- State with the highest growth rate in GST collection
- Karnataka topped for three consecutive years in NITI Aayog's Innovation Index
- No. 1 in the 2020 ease-of-doing business ranking of DPIIT
- Has moved to 'Top Achiever' position from 17th position

Industrial Policy 2020-2025

- Turnover-based encouragement across zones (PLI scheme)
- Fillip to cluster-based industries to encourage specific zones
- Beyond Bengaluru scheme for integrated industrial development
- One District-One Product: Thrust to industries in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities under the 'Atma Nirbhar' scheme

Why Karnataka is the best state for investment?

Industry-friendly policies

Availability of land with efficient logistics network

Ease of Doing Business

Highly skilled and trained manpower

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As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

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China plans new line through Aksai Chin

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Varanasi's Assi river dying a slow death

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PM unveils 246-km stretch till Rajasthan

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Spirit of law lies in this dissenting judgment

Excommunication and rights of the individual

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WINNING START

India beats Pakistan in Women's T20 WC

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Modi to inaugurate Aero India 2023 today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Monday inaugurate the 14th edition of Aero India 2023 which will be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka.

Spanning over five days the theme of the airshow is 'The runway to a billion opportunities'.

This edition is the biggest-ever Aero India as it is likely to witness the participation of 98 countries.

Defence Ministers from 32 countries and 73 CEOs of global and Indian OEMs are likely to participate.

According to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, 809 companies will showcase the country's aerospace and defence capabilities at the event. February 16 and 17 are public days during which visitors can witness the airshow.

DETAILS, RELATED REPORTS
» PAGES 4 & 10

Former SC judge among 6 new Governors appointed

Justice Nazeer (retd) was part of Benches that delivered the verdicts on demonetisation, Ayodhya, privacy; President accepts resignations of Maharashtra Governor Koshyari, Ladakh L-G Mathur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Supreme Court judge Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (retd) is among the six new faces appointed Governors by President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday.

The President also accepted the resignations of Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor R.K. Mathur in the latest gubernatorial reshuffle.

Justice Nazeer (retd), who was part of the five-judge Bench that delivered the November 2019 *Ayodhya* verdict, has been appointed Governor of Andhra Pradesh, while the incumbent, Biswa Bhushan Harichandan, has been moved to the Chhattisgarh Raj Bhavan.

The former judge, who also headed the five-judge Constitution Bench that upheld the Union government's November 2016 decision to demonetise ₹500 and ₹1000 currency notes, retired in January.

Four leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including Gulab Chand Kataria, who was serving as the Leader of the Opposition in Rajasthan, have been appointed Governors.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

New roles

A look at the appointees for six Raj Bhavans

S. Abdul Nazeer

Lt. Gen. Parnaik

L.P. Acharya

C.P. Radhakrishnan

S.P. Shukla

G.C. Kataria

- **Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (retd):** He was part of the Constitution Benches which delivered judgments on issues such as demonetisation, reservation for Marathas, Ayodhya land dispute, instant 'triple talaq' and the one that declared 'right to privacy' a fundamental right. He will be Governor of Andhra Pradesh
- **Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (retd):** He served as commander of the Army's prestigious Northern Command. He will be Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
- **Lakshman Prasad Acharya:** A BJP leader, he is a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council. He will be Governor of Sikkim
- **Shiv Pratap Shukla:** He was Minister of State for Finance in the first Modi government. He will be Governor of Himachal Pradesh
- **C.P. Radhakrishnan:** He is a two-time Lok Sabha member of the BJP from Coimbatore. He will be Governor of Jharkhand
- **Gulab Chand Kataria:** He is the sitting Leader of the Opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly. He will be Governor of Assam

4G in name only: data needles stutter in 'grey spots' in India

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Parvez Ahmed Qureshi has been complaining to his telecom provider, Vodafone Idea, that his mobile Internet speeds are unusably low, not even reaching the 512 kbps (kilobits per second) previously promised to broadband consumers. But the operator's representatives have visited the 25-year-old's home in the Songadh taluka of Gujarat's Tapi district – located 30 km from the district headquarters – and concluded that the speeds are within acceptable limits, blaming network congestion for slow Internet.

Between the villages without any 4G network coverage whatsoever and the large cities where high speeds are taken for granted, lie the oft-ignored smaller urban settlements struggling with weak connectivity. These towns do have 4G network towers,

As per the new definition of broadband, 4G users should get at least 2 mbps speed.

but telecom users such as Mr. Qureshi struggle to get usable Internet, typically because there aren't enough towers, and those that are installed are overloaded with traffic from a high number of users.

Places without cellular connectivity are called "white spots". But harder to map are the "grey spots", areas which show "connected" but may not let users get enough out of their access.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

NEARBY

Civic groups come down on '11 flyovers' claim

BENGALURU
On Saturday, the city woke up to a protest banner on the Shivananda Circle steel flyover that read: 'Flyovers Fill Pockets#SaveSankey', articulating opposition to a proposed flyover to widen the Sankey Tank Bund Road.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

All Smart Cities Mission projects to be ready by next month

22 The number of cities, including Agra, Varanasi, Chennai, Pune and Ahmedabad, that are expected to complete all projects under the government's ambitious Smart Cities Mission by next month, giving their citizens a better quality of life. The central government has released ₹36,447 crore under the mission, of which ₹32,095 crore (88%) has been utilised. PTI

Over one lakh villages have achieved ODF+ status in the country

1.8 In lakh, the number of villages in the country that have achieved Open Defecation Free-Plus (ODF+) status so far, according to an official of the Drinking Water and Sanitation department. Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase-II was launched with the aim that all villages in the country can declare themselves as ODF Plus by the end of 2024. PTI

More than 90,000 people injured in the Turkey-Syria quakes

33 In thousand, the death toll from the quakes that hit southeastern Turkey and northern Syria. The total deaths stood at 33,179. Authorities said more than 92,600 other people were injured. The Turkish Justice Minister said that 134 people were being investigated for their role in the construction of buildings that did not withstand the quakes. AP

Indian Army to spend around $130 billion in capital procurement

2.58 In ₹ lakh crore, the worth of India's indigenous defence production in the last three financial years. The Indian armed forces are projected to spend around $130 billion in capital procurement over the next five years. The Defence Ministry has set a goal of a turnover of $25 billion in defence manufacturing in the next five years. PTI

Over 10,000 children live on the streets with their families

10,000 The number of children living on the streets with their families in the country, according to the Women and Child Development Ministry. There are 19,546 children out on the street in the country, out of which 10,401 children are living with their families. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The saga of appointing Justice Victoria Gowri

The cardinal question raised in the Supreme Court by a group of petitioners is whether the appointment of a person who has "spread hate against citizens due to their religious affiliation will erode the independence of the judiciary, the fundamental right of access to justice and the faith of the general public in the integrity of the judicial institution"

LETTER & SPIRIT

Krishnadas Rajagopal

Justice Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri took oath as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court on February 7, leaving in her wake a pulsating question directed at the Collegium system of judicial appointments, during a time when it is under attack.

The chain of events

The Supreme Court Collegium recommended the elevation of advocate Gowri (as she was then) as a judge of the Madras HC on January 17. A group of 21 lawyers, shot off a communication to the President and the Collegium on February 1 and February 2, respectively, accusing her of making public utterances amounting to hate speech on social media. The petitions alleged that Justice Gowri had in two interviews on YouTube in 2018 launched into a "shocking, distasteful diatribe". They said her interviews were peppered with communal statements.

They sought an interim order like in the case of *Sri Kumar Padma Prasad versus Union of India* in 1992 when the apex court had restrained a judicial appointee to the Gauhati High Court from taking oath and assuming office as a judge.

Chief Justice Chandrachud made an oral statement in open court that these "developments" came to the notice of the Collegium after the recommendation was "formulated". After initially listing the case on February 10, it was advanced to February 7 as by then Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had tweeted her appointment as judge.

The oath-taking ceremony was scheduled at 10:35 am on February 7. While the petitioners' lawyers were summoned to Chief Justice Chandrachud's court at 9.15 am on the same day, a Bench comprising of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gavai dismissed the petitions in a 25-minute hearing. A nine-page order published on February 10 reasoned that judicially reviewing a Collegium recommendation would "violate the law and amount to evaluating and substituting the decision of the Collegium with individual or personal opinion on the suitability and merits of the person".

The Madras HC Acting Chief Justice with the newly sworn-in Additional Judge Justice Victoria Gowri. ANI

Eligibility versus suitability

The petitioners, represented by senior advocate Raju Ramachandran and advocate Sanchita Ain, quoted the Supreme Court's own 2009 case of *Mahesh Chandra Gupta versus Union of India*, which had held that questions of eligibility of a candidate and effective consultation for appointment as a HC judge under Article 217(2) of the Constitution, was open to judicial review.

They contended that the decision-making process was "stymied" as the Collegium did not have full information about Justice Gowri's "vitriolic comments". Mr. Ramachandran argued that her social media utterances revealed a strong prejudice that would threaten access to justice. Absence of prejudice was the essence of an independent judiciary and she had made herself ineligible for judicial office. The Bench responded that the scrutiny process was "fairly robust" and included taking the opinion of consultee judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Its order said whether a person was "fit" to be appointed as a judge essentially involved the aspect of "suitability" and not "eligibility". Aspects of suitability stood excluded from the purview of judicial review.

The Bench distinguished between 'suitability' and 'eligibility' of a candidate zeroed in for HC judgeship. Eligibility was based on "objective factors" given in Article 217(2) of the Constitution like citizenship and 10 years' experience as a judicial officer or a lawyer in a High Court.

The suitability of a candidate was the domain of the Collegium as it involved a procedure "designed to test the fitness of a person, including her character, integrity, competence, knowledge and the like".

On hate speech

The petitioners pointed out that Ms. Gowri, who was a senior standing counsel for the central government from 2015 until 2020 and later an Assistant Solicitor General, was affiliated to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. She had described herself as "Chowkidar Victoria Gowri" in her Twitter handle, which was "now removed". Justice Khanna said there had been HC and SC judges with political antecedents and that an advocate's political leanings did not disqualify her from being appointed a judge. To this, Mr. Ramachandran argued that political background was not the "question here at all.... It is hate speech that matters here. You may be a member of a political party, but hate speech by that member ran antithetical to the tenets of the Constitution and renders you unfit to take oath as a judge". The petitioners said Justice Gowri's statements "reveal her revulsion against certain protected religious communities in our country". Their petition referred to the *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association versus Union of India* of 1993 which had observed that "justice without fear or favour, ill-will or affection, is the cardinal creed of our Constitution and solemn assurance of every judge to the people of this great country". They referred to the Supreme Court's 2009 judgment in *N. Kannadasan versus Ajoy Khose* which said "a judge must have these basic qualities and, thus, must be found to possess the same". Mr. Ramachandran submitted that "strong communal bias" like prior conviction for a crime and undischarged insolvency, disqualified at the very threshold a person from appointment as a HC judge under Article 217 (2) of the Constitution.

But the Bench said that "the fact of the matter is all these matters must have been placed before the Collegium... it is not that the Collegium was not aware. If there was anything, they would have reconsidered... Can you show such a lack of respect to the Collegium?". Dismissing the case, the court said, "We don't think we will be able to pass any orders at this stage... We will be setting a very wrong precedent."

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court Collegium recommended the elevation of advocate Gowri as a judge of the Madras HC on January 17. A group of 21 lawyers, shot off a petition accusing her of making public utterances amounting to hate speech on social media. The petitions alleged that Justice Gowri had in two interviews on YouTube in 2018 launched into a "shocking, distasteful diatribe".
- On February 7, a Bench comprising of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gavai dismissed the petitions in a 25-minute hearing.
- The petitioners said Justice Gowri's statements "reveal her revulsion against certain protected religious communities in our country". They submitted that "strong communal bias" like prior conviction for a crime and undischarged insolvency, disqualified at the very threshold a person from appointment as a HC judge under Article 217(2) of the Constitution.

The demand for a Greater Tipraland by the TIPRA Motha

How is the core idealogical demand of the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance Motha affecting the larger politics of Tripura? Is it creating tensions?

Saptarshi Bhattacharya

The story so far:

The newest political party in Tripura, the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) Motha, floated in 2019 by Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma, the son of Tripura's last king, has created a flutter with its demand for a Greater Tipraland. With this core demand, the party has brought other indigenous political parties under its fold. Its first foray into electoral politics in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) elections in 2021 was marked by a sharp victory where it secured 18 of the 28 seats.

What is Greater Tipraland?

Greater Tipraland is the core ideological demand of the TIPRA Motha. The party released what it called a Vision Document last week, where it said that it was committed to seeking a permanent solution upholding the rights of the indigenous people of Tripura as per the Constitution of India. The objective is to carve out a new State for the 19 indigenous tribes of Tripura under Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution. In its current form, the contours of the new State would go beyond the TTAADC areas to include several other villages where the Tiprasa (indigenous people of Tripura) reside in large numbers. In addition, the Motha would set up task forces to connect with the Tiprasa living in other regions of the country and the world to help them with their linguistic, cultural, social, and economic development, according to Jagadish Debbarma, a TIPRA Motha leader and the Chairperson of the TTAADC. While the core ideology of the new party brinks on ethnic nationalism, the leadership of the Motha has been careful not to project itself as an "of the tribals, by the tribals and for the tribals only" party. Pradyot Manikya, has stated clearly in his media interactions that his party was inclusive and would also take the non-tribal population along.

What is the genesis of this demand?

On the face of it, the demand for Greater Tipraland appears to be a rehash of the demand for Tipraland put forth by the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) in 2009 after it broke away from the Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT). But Motha leader Jagadish Debbarma disagrees. The earlier Tipraland demand was to carve out a separate State for the tribal population of Tripura from the TTAADC areas, he explains. The present demand goes beyond the TTAADC areas and includes at least 36 more villages where the tribal population is in the range of 20 to 36%. This, in no way, would exclude the nine per cent Muslim population and the majority Hindu population coming within these limits, he hastens to add. According to the 1941 Census, the ratio of population of tribals and non-tribals in Tripura was almost 50:50. However, by the next Census, the tribal population was reduced to a little over 37% due to the huge influx of refugees from East Pakistan. Between 1950 and 1952, nearly 1.5 lakh refugees had entered Tripura for shelter. The flood of refugees led to bitter differences and, eventually, conflict between the tribals and the non-tribals escalated in 1980 and took the shape of armed insurgency. The demand for autonomous regions or separate statehood during this time metamorphosed to sovereignty and independence. However, after a political truce was reached between the State and the rebel groups, the demand for statehood was revived.

How has this affected Tripura?

It seems to have considerably polarised an already uneasy relationship between the tribals and the non-tribals since the State emerged from the days of armed insurgency. The TIPRA Motha put up a massive roadshow in November which is being hailed as one of the largest political mobilisation of tribals in the State.

THE GIST

- Greater Tipraland is the core ideological demand of the TIPRA Motha. The objective is to carve out a new State for the 19 indigenous tribes of Tripura under Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution.
- The party has stated clearly in its media interactions that it was inclusive and would also take the non-tribal population along.
- However, the party seems to have considerably polarised an already uneasy relationship between the tribals and the non-tribals of Tripura since the State emerged from the days of armed insurgency.

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Epilepsy patients narrate tales of discrimination

Patients say neurological condition, which can affect people of any age, is often confused with fits or mental health issues, and is yet to get the attention it deserves

INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY DAY

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

As this year, the International Epilepsy Day is being observed on Monday, with the theme 'step up against stigma', patients and caregivers in the city say a lack of awareness about the disease has led to stigma.

Senior caregivers also lament the lack of rehabilitation and caregiving centres for patients in the city. The neurological condition which can affect people of any age is often confused with fits or mental health issues, and is yet to get the attention it deserves, patients say.

Kambam Chakrapani Janardhan, 60, was diagnosed with hot-water epilepsy at around the age of eight and faced discrimination ever since. "My friends or cousins would not play with me and some around me tagged me a mad man. I felt rejected and maligned back then. But then I realised that only living life to the fullest was the best rep-

Patients and caregivers wish that more NGOs and the State government took steps to create rehabilitation and treatment centres. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

ly. I started developing other skills like mimicry, mono acting, sculpting, and painting which forced people to take note of my skills. I took medicines for 20 years but fighting society was a greater challenge than the disease," he said.

Krishna Bhaskar, who now has her own HR consultancy company in the city was diagnosed with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, when she was in high school. From not being open about her condition, she has now come a long way and now holds events to give people with the disease a chance to come out in the open and seek help and get information.

"People with epilepsy should be able to talk about it, without any shame, just like people speak about diabetes or their heart conditions as this too is invisible, but just as real," Ms. Bhaskar said. "Especially in India, epilepsy is often misunderstood and people confuse it with fits or a mental health condition and think that those who have it are less capable. Caregivers are not given much information about the condition nor are the children or anyone for that matter are taught about how to help those with epilepsy. Even the medical insurance does not directly cover epilepsy," she said.

72-year-old A. Chandrashekhar and his 65-year-old wife have been taking care of their 43-year-old autistic, intellectually-disabled son, who also has epilepsy, every day. Their son's epilepsy episodes started at an early age of four months.

"The vision of society towards such children is only different. While only a few doctors advised us about caregiving, there was not much information available out there for us. I visited many rehabilitation centres and I was not satisfied with the quality of care. We need more well-equipped centres in the State," he said.

He wished that more NGOs and the State government took steps to create rehabilitation and treatment centres for those with conditions like his son's.

Guidelines

General guidelines for caring (first aid) for someone who has a seizure due to epilepsy

- Ease the person to the floor and give them space
- Turn them onto their side
- Do not restrain or hold them down
- Do not put anything in their mouth or palms
- Stay with them throughout the episode, until they gain consciousness, and comfort them
- If there is a second seizure, call for an ambulance

Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis: State starts mass drug administration

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Following the launch of a nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign aimed at ending disease transmission of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), Karnataka's focus is on selected pockets of Vijayapura, Bidar, and Kalaburagi. Karnataka is one among the 10 high-burden States in the country, with 12,000 chronic cases of LF.

The campaign will be carried out through door-to-door administration of anti-filarial drugs in these districts, where transmission rate is more than the threshold level of one microfilaria.

All those above two years of age, except pregnant women and ailing persons, will be administered the antifilarial drugs. Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected tropical disease. Infection occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through Culex mosquitoes. Infection is usually acquired in childhood causing hidden damage to the lymphatic system. The painful and disfiguring visible manifestations of the disease, lymphoedema, elephantiasis and scrotal swelling (hydrocele) occur later in life and can lead to permanent disability.

Mass drug administration campaign for elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis is being carried out through door-to-door administration of anti-filarial drugs. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

These patients are not only physically disabled, but suffer mental, social and financial losses contributing to stigma and poverty.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D told *The Hindu* that so far, every State was undertaking the MDA activities on dates decided by the health authorities.

"From this year, the campaign will be taken up on a mission mode to eliminate LF by 2027, three years ahead of the global target. We have adopted a multi-pronged approach with an MDA round in two phases every year – from February 10 and August 10 – as per the Centre's guidelines," he said.

During the campaign, the focus will be on intensive monitoring at block level. Education institutions, offices, banks, industries and other congregated areas will be covered followed by coverage of household members through door-to-door visits by ASHAs and para-medical staff.

Mohammed Sharief, State Programme Officer for National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), said the campaign has been launched in two blocks of Vijayapura as the transmission is more than one microfilaria here. Subsequently, it began in select blocks in Bidar and Kalaburagi districts. "Covering a population of 20 lakh, this campaign will go on till March 15 in these districts," he said.

Nine districts

Of the nine endemic districts – Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Bagalkot, Raichur, Vijayapura, Bidar, Kalaburagi and Yadagir – the threshold level of less than one microfilaria rate has been achieved in Uttar Kannada, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada and parts of Raichur, Vijayapura and Bagalkot.

"Despite the continuing transmission, we have not seen any full-blown fresh cases since the last seven years. But some pockets of Vijayapura, Bidar, Kalaburgi and Yadgir continue to remain a challenge," Dr. Sharief said.

CACHE

REUTERS

What are microLED displays, and why is Apple shifting to it?

How is microLED technology different from earlier screen display technology? When is the Cupertino-based company debuting the new technology? And in which all products?

Abhishek Chatterjee

The story so far:

Apple's shift to microLED display technology is reportedly under process. Considered as the next big transition in display technology, microLEDs are self-illuminating diodes that have brighter and better colour reproduction than Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) display technology. Apple is currently working on this new display technology and plans to implement the same on future watch models starting 2024, and gradually to its other devices including iPhones and Macs. However, the complications and challenges with the new technology might delay Apple's plans.

What is microLED display technology?

The basis of microLED technology are sapphires. A sapphire can shine on its own forever. A microLED screen is filled with such small but strong light. The picture in a microLED screen is generated by several individual light-emitting diodes.

Samsung, the pioneer in microLED technology explained in a video that a microLED is as small as cutting a centimetre of hair into 200 smaller pieces. Each of these microLEDs are semiconductors that receive electric signals. Once these microLEDs are gathered, they form a module. Several modules are then combined to form screens.

What are its benefits over other displays?

MicroLED displays are brighter, have better colour reproduction and provide better viewing angles. They make images appear as if they painted on top of the device's glass and are quite the technological feat, according to a report by *Bloomberg*.

MicroLEDs have limitless scalability, as they are resolution-free, bezel-free, ratio-free, and even size-free.

The screen can be freely resized in any form for practical usage. In addition to being self-emissive, MicroLEDs also individually produce red, green, and blue colours without needing the same backlighting or colour filters as conventional displays, according to Samsung. The electronics company is currently the world's most advanced manufacturer of displays, and has been producing its own version of microLED for TVs.

Samsung and LG Displays have evolved with brighter OLED panels over the last couple of years but microLED promises even greater luminance without panel degradation issues, *The Verge* reported.

Samsung has come up with MicroLED displays with up to 4,000 nits of peak brightness, roughly double of what the best OLED and LCD TVs are capable of right now.

What does the new technology mean for Apple?

MicroLED displays will be Apple's first screens designed and developed in-house. The tech company currently sources screens from Samsung, LG, Japan Display Inc.,Sharp Corp. and BOE Technology Group Co.

Apple's transition to the new displays could reduce its reliance on technology partners like Samsung and LG and replace Apple supplies with homegrown parts. The Cupertino-based company currently makes its own M1 and M2 chips. It has dropped Intel's chips in its Mac computers to boost in-house designs and plans to do the same with key wireless components in its iPhones.

Now, by making the displays on its own, Apple could be in a better position to customise its devices and keep a stronger control on its supply chain, thus reducing delays in product availability.

When did Apple start working on this tech?

Apple started working on the tech in 2014 after purchasing startup LuxVue that pioneered microLED technology. The development of Apple's microLED screens was led by veteran executive Lynn Youngs within Apple's hardware engineering division, but the project was moved to the purview of Johny Srouji, Senior Vice President of Hardware Technologies at Apple.

The project is now being led by Wei Chen, who runs Apple's display technology group within Srouji's Hardware Technologies division. The company has started testing microLED displays on its Watch Ultra.

What are the challenges with the new displays?

Apple had planned to start the transition to microLED screens as early as 2020. But the project languished due to high costs and technical challenges. Apple's 2024 target could potentially be extended to 2025. The company could also offer a limited supply of the new devices to get the transition started.

When can we see it and in which products?

The screens are expected to debut with the Apple Watch Ultra in 2024, but Apple eventually plans to bring the technology to its entire lineup of iPhone, iPad, Mac, and Apple Watch devices.

However, *9to5mac* reported that it could be a decade before we see it in a Mac as the technology is still so nascent and complicated. These transitions can take a long time. The iPhone had OLED screens six years before the iPad was expected to get them, *9to5* pointed.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On the occasion of World Radio Day, here's a quiz on the medium that continues to make its mark on people's lives

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

This person, who is more well known for being an accomplished film director, was the narrator of a radio series in the 1930s in the U.S. One episode of the series, an adaptation of H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds* was narrated in such a fashion that some members of the listening audience were convinced about a Martian invasion resulting in panic with newspapers running stories on the impact for three weeks running. Name the person and the radio series.

QUESTION 2

He started out his career at the age of 19 in All India Radio. He is the co-author of a book titled, *The Winning way* and an analyst for the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation* and the *BBC.* Name him.

QUESTION 3

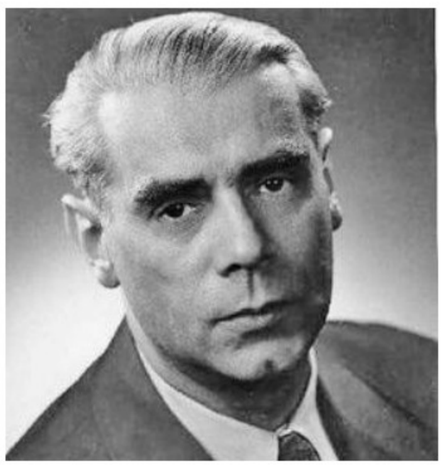
Who christened the term "Akashvani" for All India Radio and what does it mean?

QUESTION 4

Originally used as a pejorative term to describe telegraph operators who lacked Morse code-sending skills, the word has now been used by the practitioners of this device/facility to describe themselves. What facility used by "a duly authorised person interested in radioelectric practice with a purely personal aim and without pecuniary interest" are we talking about?

QUESTION 5

This programme featuring recitation of devotional verses and songs, aired every year at the beginning of a particular festive season in West Bengal, is among the longest running shows on Indian radio. Name the programme and the person whose recorded voice continues to perform the recitations till today.



Visual question:
A music composer who fled Nazi Germany following the persecution of Jews, he composed All India Radio's signature tune. Name him. WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the February 10 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The number of gold medals Mark Spitz won ahead of the 1968 Mexico City games. **Ans: He won two medals**
2. This swimmer went on to break Spitz's record for most gold medals won at a single Olympic Games. **Ans: Michael Phelps at the 2008 Beijing Games**
3. This female swimmer holds the record for winning most medals compared to any other female swimmer in Olympic history. **Ans: Jenny Thompson; 12 medals**
4. This country holds the second place for most number of Olympic swimming medals. **Ans: Australia**
5. Fleeing from worn-torn Syria, this swimmer was selected to represent the Refugee Olympic Team at the 2016 Rio Games. **Ans: Yusra Mardini**
6. The first male swimmer to break the 2:00 barrier at the Olympics in the 200 individual medley. **Ans: Tamas Darnyi**
Visual: In the 1972 Munich Games, this swimmer was crowned the Queen of the Pool. **Ans: Shane Gould for Australia**
Early Birds: V. Siddhartha| Jagadish. S| Varghese Joseph

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

She is getting her feet wet by taking a few classes

She has done the same job for over a few years and now she has itchy feet and wants a change

S. Upendran

"What took you so long? I saw you getting out of your car about fifteen minutes ago."
"I ran into your neighbour. He took me for a drive in his new SUV."
"It's a really nice car, isn't it?"
"It is. But I think I made a mistake by sitting in it. It's given me itchy feet."
"You mean to say there were bugs in the new car?"
"No, no! The car is fine. When you say that you have itchy feet, what you're suggesting is that you wish to travel. Take a trip somewhere."
"In other words, you have a desire to leave the place where you are now?"
"Exactly! You want to go to different places. Ram used to get itchy feet every six months."
"The only time I ever have itchy feet is when I drop someone off at the airport."
"Good example. My father never had itchy feet. He hated to travel."
"Is the expression used only in the context of travel?"
"The informal expression has other meanings as well. For example, it can be used if you wish to switch jobs – leave one company for another. I've been with this company for nearly seven years. So, it's quite understandable that of late I've been having itchy feet."
"Seven years is a long time. Kids nowadays have itchy feet six months after joining a firm. My cousin who is a software engineer wants to quit her job and become a teacher!"
"That's a drastic change. What makes her think she'll enjoy teaching?"
"I have no idea. Right now, she's planning to do a PhD and..."
"That's a very lengthy process. Before she does that, why don't you ask her to teach in some school for a few weeks and see if she likes teaching. Let her get her feet wet before taking the plunge."
"Get her feet wet? Does it mean doing something gradually?"
"When you ask someone to get their feet wet, what you're suggesting to the individual is that he should start slowly. He needs to become familiar with every aspect of the task, gradually."
"In other words, don't be in a rush!"
"Exactly! Ram wants to start his own gym. He's getting his feet wet by spending time at his friend's gym."
"My cousins from abroad were scared to drive a stick shift. They spent a few days getting their feet wet. "
"How can you expect Anjali to take a decision regarding the matter? She's still getting her feet wet."
"That's a very good example."
"But what is the origin of this expression. Why is it only the feet that are getting wet? Why not the hands?"
"Before a swimmer jumps into a pool, what is it that he normally does?"
"He usually puts his feet in the water to see how cold it is."
"Exactly!"
upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Macabre:
shockingly repellent; inspiring horror

Synonyms:
sick, ghastly, grim, grisly, gruesome

Usage:
The documentary is about macabre tales of war and suffering

Pronunciation: bit.ly/macabrepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /məˈkɑːbrə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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- Karnataka – India's Leader in Aerospace and Defence

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67%
Aircraft and helicopters for defence services are manufactured in Karnataka.

65%
State's contribution to India's Aerospace and Defence exports.

25%
A quarter of India's aircraft and spacecraft industry is based in Karnataka.

AERO INDIA, 13th- 17th FEBRUARY, 2023

Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru
Visit the Govt. of Karnataka Pavilion at Hall 'E'

As enshrined in our Constitution, "to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement" is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Gunjan Krishna, IAS
Commissioner for Industrial Development & Director of Industries & Commerce

Dr. E.V. Ramana Reddy, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Commerce and Industries Department

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INBRIEF

Two cars destroyed, one damaged in accidental fire

Two cars were destroyed and another was damaged in an accidental fire that broke out at the parking lot in Palace Grounds on Sunday.

The fire was noticed at around 2.30 p.m. and passers-by alerted the fire control room. Two fire tenders rushed to the spot and they put out the fire in an hour.

The Fire and Emergency Services personnel suspect that dry leaves and waste material caught fire due to cigarette smoking by passersby.

Traffic police collect ₹123 crore in fine in 9 days

At the end of the nine-day 50% rebate window for traffic fines, the police on Saturday collected ₹34,13,31,950 and disposed 10,40,110 cases.

With this, the total collection reached to ₹123,62,95,611 at the end of midnight and disposed 42,14,849. With the end of the offer, the traffic police are awaiting a nod from the authorities on continuing the drive. As per the records, a total number of 1.13 crore cases are pending out of which 42 lakh cases were resolved during the nine-day window. "We wanted to resolve the rest of the cases and extend the benefits to motorists," a senior officer, said.

Aero India: From modest beginnings in the 90s to being Asia's largest airshow

The 14th edition of Aero India is the biggest ever as it is likely to witness the participation of 98 countries

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The biennial Aero India event which is held in February is an one-stop destination for aerospace and defence companies from all over the world.

Top armament manufacturers to MSMEs and start-ups world over want to showcase their aerial assets and products at the Air Force Station Yelahanka which has been the venue for the airshow for close to three decades.

Today, the airshow is touted to be the largest in Asia and the 14th edition of Aero India is the biggest ever as it is likely to witness the participation of 98 countries.

According to the organisers, about five lakh visitors are expected to attend the event physically during Aero India 2023, making it the most popular and among one of the largest attended air shows around the world. However the origins of the airshow were modest. The first ever airshow was held in 1993 and it was then known as Avia India with a modest display of a few aviation assets.

Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt, at the curtain-raiser press conference ahead of Aero India 2023, in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The biennial air show, renamed Aero India in 1996, has become bigger and bigger. To start off, only air assets belonging to the Indian Air Force (IAFs) were on display.

But in the subsequent edition held in the 2000's many foreign nations started participating in large numbers and it only grew bigger and bigger in the years to come as foreign companies competed against each other to win the IAF prized Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) deal.

Even the COVID-19 pandemic could not come in way of Aero India, as the edition of 2021 became the first airshow to be held amidst the pandemic That edition of the airshow was also unique as it was the world's first Hybrid exhibition wherein the business elements of the event were held in both physical as well as virtual modes.

Traffic restrictions in place

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In view of the inauguration of Aero India 2023, the elevated expressway on Bellary Road from Esteem Mall will be closed for all types of vehicles between 8 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. on Monday, with only vehicles with valid passes for the show allowed.

According to a release, people going towards Yelahanka and adjoining areas may take the service road below the elevated road. People going to KIAL may take alternative roads from Hennur junction to reach the airport. For the smooth movement of emergency service vehicles and vehicles travelling to the airport, measures like prohibition of heavy vehicles movement and one-way system, vehicle diversion have been temporarily implemented from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. from February 13 to 17.

Aero India Map SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Other private vehicles without passes can be parked either on the GKVK campus parking lot or at Jakkur. People can then use the BMTC bus facility to reach the venue.

Parking for all types of vehicles has been banned on both sides of the road from Nagenahalli gate to the Ambience Dhabha Cross connecting to Bangalore-Bellary Road; from Mekhri Circle to Devanahalli of Bangalore-Bellary Road, from Goraguntepalya to Hennur junction, from Reva college junction to Bagalur Cross on Bagalur main road, from Nagawara junction to Bagalur junction via Thanisandra main road.

Case against basketball association secretary for forgery

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The S.R. Nagar police have registered a case of cheating and forgery against the secretary of Madhya Pradesh Basketball Association for forging the birth certificates of players to cheat the government and the federation.

Based on the complaint by Chander Mukhi Sharma, representing the Basketball Federation of India, State Olympic Bhavan at Kanteerava Stadium on Kasturba Road, the police on Thursday, registered a case against Avinash Anand, Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Basketball Association, charging him under sections 464 (making of a false document in the name of a fictitious person) and 468 (forgery) of the IPC for further investigation.

A probe revealed that Avinash Anand, leading the sub-junior and youth basketball teams from his State, forged the birth certificates of 14 students to push them into eligibility and qualify for matches organised between November last year to February this year.

The cheating came to light when Mr. Sharma verified the submitted documents and came to know that the birth certificates of 14 players had been forged. "This forgery was done to avail government and sports grants for ineligible players. It also deprived deserving players of a chance," Mr. Sharma, said in his complaint. The matter was brought to the notice of the federation before filing a case against Avinash Anand. The police are verifying the documents and said the accused will be called in for questioning.

> This forgery was done to avail government and sports grants for ineligible players. It also deprived deserving players of a chance
>
> **CHANDER MUKHI SHARMA**
> representing Basketball Federation of India

Public exams for Classes V and VIII fuel high demand for State board textbooks

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government's decision to hold public exams for Classes V and VIII, coupled with a crackdown on State board affiliated schools illegally running Central syllabus schools, has led to the indent for State board textbooks shooting up significantly.

Compared to the previous year, the Karnataka Textbook Society (KTBS) has got 1.09 crore additional indent for textbooks from private schools.

This year, the KTBS got an indent for 2.5 crore textbooks, out of a total of 6.37 crore textbooks that includes a wide catalogue of 499 titles. Last year, KTBS had got an indent for 1.41 crore textbooks from private schools out of a total of 5.65 crore textbooks.

There are around 17,710 private State board affiliated schools in Karnataka. However, several of them have been found to be teaching the Central syllabus illegally and they have been distributing NCERT textbooks.

The State government's decision to hold public exams for Classes V and VIII has now forced these schools to make course corrections and start teaching State board textbooks.

Meanwhile, a three-member committee, led by Block Education Officers (BEO) in every taluk, also conducted a survey of schools across Karnataka and served notices to 700 of them for holding State board affiliation, but teaching the Central syllabus.

The KTBS closed the indent for textbooks in December 2022 itself to ensure an early supply of textbooks. However, following several requests the indent was opened again and the society registered a huge jump in the indent compared to the previous year. "This year we have decided to supply textbooks to schoolchildren early. This year we got 4.32 crore textbooks indent for free distribution and 2.05 crore for sale. A total of 25% of textbooks already been processed and sent to the districts. By this month end hopefully 50% of the indent will reach the districts," said Vishal R., Commissioner of the Department of Public Instruction.

READER'S MAIL

Currency not being accepted

Sir, – Often, many merchants refuse to accept ₹2,000 notes for exchange or purchase. In the absence of any notification by the Govt. of India or the RBI, it is not right for them to refuse the note. Same is the case of ₹10 coins. The govt. or RBI should issue a notification clarifying the matter to the public to mitigate the problem.

K. Narayanan Namboodiri
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore @thehindu.co.in

After Union Budget let-down, millet growers look to State Budget for succour

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Millet growers are hoping the State will use the opportunity of this being the International Year of Millets to turn the cultivation of millets into a profitable venture.

Agricultural experts in Karnataka are disappointed that the Union Budget has not offered anything for the State's millet farmers, particularly growers of ragi in which the State tops the country, though this happens to be the International Year of Millets.

Now, they are hoping that the State Budget to be presented on February 17 will give them some succour. Millet growers, particularly ragi farmers, are hoping that the State will utilise the opportunity of this being the International Year of Millets to turn the cultivation of millets into a profitable venture.

The Union Budget has not mentioned any other concrete initiatives towards millets but for the statement that the Indian Institute of Millet Research in Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level to make India a global hub for "Shree Anna" (millets)

Former Agriculture Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, during whose tenure Karnataka played a key role in convincing the Centre to write to international authorities to pitch for International Year of Millets, said the government should have announced an initiative for instilling confidence among farmers about market. They should have announced that any quantum of millets grown would be procured at MSP, he said.

Ragi cultivation area which once accounted for about 1.2 million hectares in the State has now reduced to a range of six to seven lakh hectares, says an expert. FILE PHOTO

Market assurance

Agriculture economist and former chairman of Karnataka Agriculture Prices Commission (KAPC) T.N. Prakash Kammaradi observed that the real constrain with respect to millets is their supply. Pointing out that millet cultivation area has dwindled, he stressed the need for implementing the recommendations by KAPC in 2018 that remunerative MSP should be provided to millets. This is where the Centre has to intervene, he maintained.

Observing that millet is still not the main choice of farmers for cultivation, he felt that a guaranteed market and assured remunerative prices would encourage farmers to take up their cultivation. He also called for identifying areas suitable for cultivation of different millets and taking up a pragmatic measure to encourage their cultivation.

A. Sitharam, veteran scientist who has worked for nearly four decades in the field of research and promotion of millets in the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru, said that the Union Budget should have sanctioned a regional millet research station to the university now as the demand has been pending for more than 25 years. The university has more than 10,000 germplasm collections of millets that are highest for the country, he pointed out.

Shrinking area

He expressed concern that the ragi cultivation area which once accounted for about 1.2 million hectares in the State had now reduced to a range of six to seven lakh hectares while the cultivation area of minor millets has crashed from a level of more than two lakh hectares to just below one lakh hectares now. A regional research station on millets, particularly minor millets, would go a long way in expanding the cultivation area, he felt.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client is intending to Purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner **Smt. R. Padma** who has represented that she has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned, within Ten (10) days from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and any objection/s or claims made thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

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ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಭವನ, ಜನರಲ್ ತಿಮ್ಮಯ್ಯ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ,
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ಸಂ: ಹಿಂವಕಇ/ಹೊರ.ಸಂ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–51/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13–02–2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ/ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಚೇರಿಗಳು, ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ/ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೊರಾರ್ಜಿ ದೇಸಾಯಿ/ಅಟಲ್ ಬಿಹಾರಿ ವಾಜಪೇಯಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್ ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ, ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ಮತ್ತು ಬೋಧಕ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

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No. SEE/EE/Tr/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-2/F-114/22-23/CYS-140 Date: 10.02.2023

Bid Enquiry No. SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/22-23/103/ 07.02.2023 TENTITIVE ESTIMATE FOR Reconditioning/ Reinsulation for windings of 12.5 MVA, NGEF MAKE 66/11kV CLASS, SL. NO. 280003602 POWER TRANSFORMER RELEASED AT 66/11kV PARASHURAMPUR MUSS IN HIRIYUR TL&SS DIVISION on Total Turn Key Basis.

No. SEE/EE/Tr/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/F-114/22-23/CYS-141 Date: 10.02.2023

Bid Enquiry No. SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/22-23/93 Dated: 27.01.2023 for Providing Additional 01 No. of 11KV PCVC Breakers for bifurcating the existing overloaded feeders of Transformer-01 (8MVA) at 66/11KV MUSS Kerebilachi, 220KV Benkikere RS Division KPTCL on Partial Turnkey Basis.

Bid Enquiry No. SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/22-23/98 Dated: 27.01.2023 for Providing Additional 11KV 1B+4F PCVC Breakers for bifurcating the existing overloaded feeders of Transformer-02 (12.5 MVA) at 66/11KV MUSS Mavinakatte, 220KV Benkikere RS Division KPTCL on Partial Turnkey Basis

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Civic groups and experts come down heavily on Bommai's '11 flyovers' claim

The Chief Minister, who also holds charge of Bengaluru city, recently claimed that the Karnataka government approved 11 flyovers in 2022-23

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On Saturday, the city woke up to a protest banner on the controversial Shivananda Circle steel flyover that read: "Flyovers Fill Pockets#SaveSankey", articulating opposition to a proposed flyover to widen the Sankey Tank Bund Road and taking potshots at the alleged corruption in the State government contracts.

The banner was taken down by the police, who are trying to ascertain who put it up.

This protest comes amidst widespread opposition to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's claim that his government had approved 11 flyovers in Bengaluru, the highest in a single year.

On February 9, Mr. Bommai, who also holds charge of the city, said that if people needed to see real changes, the city needed investment on a large scale and said that his government approved 11 flyovers in 2022-23.

Citizen groups have come down heavily on the Sankey Tank Bund Road flyover proposal and also the Chief Minister's policy direction for the city.

Following repeated protests by residents of Malleswaram and Sadashivanagar, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) recently submitted documents and a detailed project report (DPR) on the construction of the flyover to the newly formed Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA).

BBMP officials, after submitting the documents to BMLTA, said that they will welcome any suggestion and feedback from the authority on the project. "The tender was called for the project, after all the approval needed from the pre-tender scrutiny committee of the State government. We welcome feedback from the BMLTA on the project," a BBMP official said.

A banner displayed on the Shivananda Flyover in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Two men try to cross metro tracks, delay trains for 10 minutes

The men were using the metro for the first time and were trying to cross the tracks to get to the other platform. The tracks are electrified and can be fatal. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Metro trains were delayed for 10 minutes after two passengers tried to cross the metro track and were immediately saved by security guards in the city on Saturday.

The tracks are electrified and can be fatal.

The incident happened around 6 p.m. at the Mahakavi Kuvempu Road metro station on the Green Line, disrupting at least two trains on the line, according to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials.

Officials said the two men were using the metro for the first time and were trying to cross the tracks to get to the other platform. The station controller and security guards noticed this.

"The two men hailed from a village and were using the metro for the first time. They wanted to take a train in the opposite direction but weren't aware that they had to reach the concourse to cross over in the metro," a BMRCL official said. "The two men were safe and brought to the station control room and counseled. Due to the incident, there was a 10-minute train delay on the Green Line from 6.03 p.m. to 6.13 p.m.," he added.

'Vasanta Utsava – Sasive Habba' celebrated at Lalbagh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to celebrate the goodness of Indian mustard and to protect it from Genetically Modified (GM) mustard, 'Vasanta Utsava - Sasive Habba' was celebrated on Sunday in Lalbagh to mark the end of National Safe Food Week. The event was organised by citizens of 'India for Safe Food' in collaboration with Jaivik Mall, an organic outlet located in Lalbagh.

"Our mustard is 6,000 years old. India's gene banks have a collection of at least 14,000 accessions of Brassica germplasm (mustard and rapeseed) out of which at least 4,000 are indigenous Indian mustard varieties – such is the wide diversity of mustard for which India is a centre of diversity. This great diversity is going to be contaminated irreversibly with GM mustard, which is unnecessary, unwanted and unsafe," said the organisers.

Dishes on display

Along with a sample of diverse varieties of mustard from the country, various dishes from different regions were on display at the Habba. The visitors were also given a chance to sample the dishes. The importance of mustard oil cakes and mustard plants in ecological agriculture was explained by organic farming experts.

The event caught the attention of the visitors of Lalbagh who also took part in an open mic session where they shared the stories they had heard about mustard.

Some citizens also signed a cloth banner urging the government to protect Indian mustard and not allow GM mustard in the State.

Theatre personality Arundati Nag also took part in the event.

Police on the lookout for man who set fire to pawnshop after trivial row with owner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Girinagar police are on the lookout for a man, who allegedly set fire to a pawnshop over a trivial row with the owner on Sunday.

The accused walked into the shop on Sunday to pawn some gold jewels and demanded ₹50,000.

Heated arguments ensued as Bhavarlal, 54, the shop owner, refused.

Enraged by this, the accused walked out in a huff, returned with a plastic bottle with petrol, splashed it in the shop, and set it on fire, said the police.

The fire soon engulfed the shop and Mr. Bhavarlal also sustained minor injuries, but escaped. Residents, hearing the commotion, rushed to his help and put out the fire. The shop was partially gutted. Efforts are on to track down the arsonist, said the police.

Accidental fire

In another incident, a shop was gutted in an accidental fire that broke out due to LPG cylinder leakage in Vithalnagar in Chamarajpet on Sunday. The owner of the house and his family members and neighhbors ran out to safety.

However the household articles and the flower shop were gutted. Two fire tenders rushed to the spot to put out the fire.

The Chamarajpet police are probing the incident to ascertain the reason behind the mishap.

Ashwath Narayan seeks report on skit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan on Saturday instructed the Principal Secretary of the department to conduct an investigation and submit a report about the controversial skit performed by the students of Jain (deemed-to-be) university.

"The incident which has said to have occurred was very unfortunate. Babasaheb Ambedkar is the architect of the country's constitution. He is respected by the whole world. It is unacceptable if he is disrespected," the Minister said.

He said that he instructed the Principal Secretary after observing the coverage of the said incident in the media and his report will be ready soon.

INBRIEF

Biker killed on Magadi Road

A 26-year-old motorcycle rider was killed when he lost control of his bike, and slipped on the road sustaining severe head injuries on Magadi Road in the early hours of Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Sanjay Kumar S.K., a private firm employee. He was returning home from a party when the accident occurred near Prasanna theatre. Mr. Sanjay was riding in a rash and negligent manner without wearing helmet and slipped, sustaining severe head injuries, the police said. Passers-by rushed him to NIMHANS where he died. The Magadi Road traffic police have registered a case of self-accident and are investigating.

Shortage of drivers: KSRTC starts outsourcing them at Chamarajanagar and Ramanagaram

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

To address the shortage of drivers, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation Limited (KSRTC) has finally started outsourcing them and in Chamarajanagar and Ramanagaram divisions, 100 such drivers have reported for duty recently.

More to be employed

Officials say 250 more will be employed in Mangaluru, Puttur, and other areas. KSRTC MD Anbu Kumar told *The Hindu* that each driver will get a salary of ₹23,000 per month, in addition to incentives and other allowances, including 1% commission on fares collected.

The corporation claims that the total pay per month may range from ₹29,000 to ₹30,000 per month. Each outsourced driver is expected to drive 300 km per day.

"Owing to a scarcity of drivers, we could not utilise the fleet size optimally in Chamarajanagar and Ramanagaram divisions. In Mangaluru and Puttur, the selection processes have been completed. After undergoing training, they will report to duty shortly. In Udupi, the process is yet to be finalised. In Ramanagaram, outsourcing drivers has helped us to run more buses which help students and people working in industrial areas," MD of the KSRTC said.

The total staff strength of KSRTC is 35,000, out of which a majority of them are drivers and conductors. FILE PHOTO

Shortage

The KSRTC has a shortage of 2,000 drivers. The total staff strength of the corporation is 35,000, out of which a majority of them are drivers and conductors.

"If we face a shortage of administrative staff we can somehow manage with digitisation. However, a shortage of drivers and mechanical staff will impact our services. Keeping this in mind, we are outsourcing drivers," the official said.

However, this is not the first time the corporation is involving private parties to provide bus services.

Between 2002 and 2006, the corporation hired a total of 341 express, ultra deluxe, and city service buses from private operators and the private operators had provided the required number of drivers also.

The KSRTC then discontinued hiring private buses and some of the reasons cited were non-maintenance of vehicles, reluctance of private operators to operate on bad roads, repeated breakdown of vehicles, and breach of agreement by some operators citing financially unviability.

The KSRTC also maintained that the performance of hired buses in terms of reliability, punctuality, cleanliness, and others were not satisfactory.

Recently, under the FAME-2 scheme, the KSRTC started operating electric buses by involving a private operator. The private agency supplied and maintained the buses during the lease period and also deputed drivers.

The BMTC is also running buses under FAME-2 and the Smart City project by leasing buses. Like KSRTC, the BMTC too faces a shortage of drivers. Recently, the corporation floated a tender to outsource 1,000 drivers, as it is facing a shortage of 5,000 drivers.

The corporations have been maintaining that outsourcing bus crew is temporary and they will go for regular recruitment after clearance from the State government.

After the pandemic, the government directed the financially-hit corporations to freeze regular recruitment as part of cost cutting.

Meanwhile, employee unions are vehemently opposing the move to outsource manpower and lease buses, alleging that corporations are making inroads for their privatisation.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, FEB. 13	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:25
RISE 00:00	SET 11:35
TUESDAY, FEB. 14	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:25
RISE 00:41	SET 12:22
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15	
RISE 06:42	SET 18:25
RISE 01:41	SET 13:17

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	20
Mysuru	31	14
Bengaluru	33	16

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (February 13, Monday), the following explainer is available:

- **Letter & Spirit** | The saga of appointing Justice Victoria Gowri **bit.ly/victoriajusticeappt**

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THE HINDU
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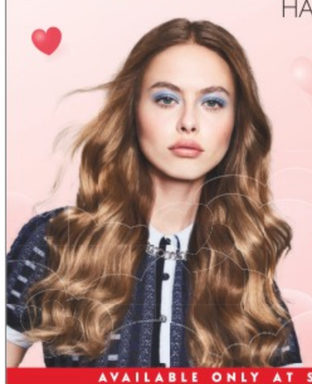
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4	DM - CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE	03	₹ 05 Lac	1.2 Lac/Month
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INBRIEF

Chief Minister congratulates ex-judge of SC Abdul Nazeer

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has congratulated the former Supreme Court judge S. Abdul Nazeer of Karnataka on being appointed as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

Taking to Twitter to congratulate him, the Chief Minister said: "Best wishes for a successful gubernatorial tenure."

PPP model medical college promised for Kanakapura

Health Minister K. Sudhakar on Sunday said he would make efforts to sanction a medical college under the public-private partnership (PPP) model for Kanakapura in Ramanagaram district.

Participating in the inauguration of a 100-bed mother-and-child hospital built at a cost of ₹45 crore with the assistance from Infosys Foundation at Kanakapura, the Minister denied allegations that he was responsible for the town losing the government medial college that had been sanction to it.

Pointing out that Ramanagaram district, of which Kanakapura taluk is a part, had already been sanctioned a ₹600-crore medical college for which the foundation would be laid soon, he said, hence, he was of the view that a medical college under the PPP model would be convenient for Kanakapura.

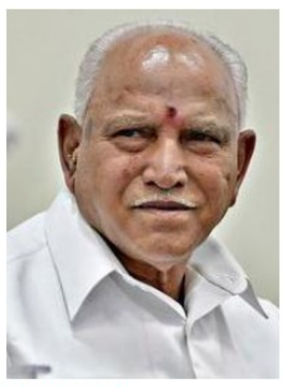
Concurrent charge given to Mahesh Karjagi

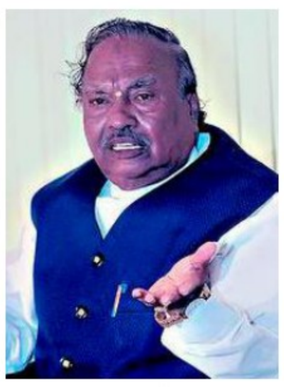
Following the deputation of Prakash G.T. Nittali, Director, Kannada and Culture Department, Bengaluru, to attend the 124th Induction Training to be held at LBSNAA, Mussoorie, from February 13 to March 24, Mahesh Karjagi, Director (Admin and HR), KPTCL, Bengaluru, has been given the concurrent charge of the post of the Director, Kannada and Culture, Bengaluru, with immediate effect, according to a notification.

This election season, Shivamogga to see many patriarchs fading away

The district, which has always been at the centre of electoral politics in the State, has contributed four Chief Ministers; children of BSY, KSE, and Kagodu Thimmappa are aspiring to contest polls

Sathish G.T.
HASSAN





Veterans all: B.S. Yediyurappa and K.S. Eshwarappa of BJP and Kagodu Thimmappa of Congress

Shivamogga district, which has always been at the centre of electoral politics in Karnataka, might lose some of its sheen this election season, given that big names from here are past their prime. The district has contributed four Chief Ministers.

The former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, credited with building the party brick by brick in Karnataka, has announced his retirement from electoral politics. Another senior leader of the party and former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa is on the verge of retiring from electoral politics. Even though Mr. Yediyurappa still wields significant influence across State and is seen as key figure in the campaign for the coming elections, at 79 he is no longer the firebrand he used to be and has announced that he will not contest.

In the Congress, Kagodu Thimmappa, at 90, is at the fag end of his political career. Mr. Thimmappa was a witness to the historic Kagodu Satyagraha for the rights of tenant farmers in the 1950s and the issue has been an important concern all his political career.

CMs from district

Kadidal Manjappa was the first Chief Minister from the district. He was in the position for a brief period in 1956. His contemporary, Shantaveri Gopala Gowda, a socialist leader from Shivamogga, was elected to Assembly three times. Though he remained on the Opposition benches, he is remembered for his commitment to the welfare of the depressed classes even now.

In 1990 S. Bangarappa, who won from Sorab constituency, became Chief Minister. He had a long career, spanning several political parties. J.H. Patel, arguably the most colourful Chief Minister Karnataka has seen, occupied the position in 1996 in the Janata Dal government. He won from Channagiri constituency, now part of Davangere district.

Mr. Yediyurappa, who began his political career by getting elected to Shikaripur municipality, represented it for the first time in 1983. Since then, he has been one of the key players in Karnataka politics. He has taken oath of office as Chief Minister four times since 2007, though his party never achieved absolute majority. He has hinted that his son B.Y. Vijayendra will contest for his seat, Shikaripur, this time.

Mr. Eshwarappa, 74, who began his career with Mr. Yediyurappa in the BJP in the 1970s, was elected to the Assembly in 1989. He worked as president of the State unit of the BJP and remained a loyal party worker. He did not leave the party when Mr. Yediyurappa launched the KJP in 2012.

Mr. Eshwarappa resigned as Minister in the Basavaraj Bommai Cabinet in April 2022 following charges of abetment to suicide when a civil contractor ended his life in Udupi, alleging that the Minister's associates demanded a bribe to clear pending bills. He has not been inducted back despite the police giving him a clean chit. According to sources in the BJP, Mr. Eshwarappa might not get a chance to contest this time, given his age. He, however, is trying to field his son K.E. Kanthesh.

Role of children

If Mr. Yediyurappa and Mr. Eshwarappa are replaced by their children, the BJP leadership in the district will witness a significant change.

Another senior BJP leader D.H. Shankaramurthy has retired from active politics. His son D.S. Arun represents the local bodies of the district in the Legislative Council.

Mr. Thimmappa was defeated in the 2018 Assembly elections. He has applied for the party's ticket to contest again from Sagar constituency. Interestingly, his daughter Rajanandini has also sought the party ticket.

Congress committee begins exercise to shortlist candidates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid an intense competition among aspirants in the Congress to secure party ticket for the Assembly elections, the crucial meetings of the screening committee headed by Mohan Prakash commenced on Sunday with the working presidents providing their inputs over the panel of candidates that they have prepared.

While the five panels headed by the working presidents have submitted lists of aspirants in each constituency after wetting the applications, the screening committee is expected to bring it down to one or two aspirants for each constituency before it submits the report to the central election committee of the party.

"The lists submitted by the panels already have a maximum of two probable names in 90% of the constituencies with a number of them having only one name. In other constituencies, there are multiple names with a maximum of five names," a working president told *The Hindu*. About 1,400 aspiring candidates, including incumbent legislators and former legislators, had applied for the ticket for 224 constituencies of the State during November. "The committee met the working presidents separately where they provided inputs on the list," the working president said.

On Sunday, Mr. Prakash met the working presidents to elicit their views and over the next two days several crucial meetings are slated to be held involving KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah, campaign committee president M.B. Patil, and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council B.K. Hariprasad, among others, KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed confirmed. He said that incumbent legislators, ticket aspirants, and party workers would also be meeting the committee.

In a continued headache for the party, sources said that despite the screening committee starting its work, many probable candidates are still hanging around their leaders in the hope they would help them get the ticket.

By month-end

Meanwhile, multiple sources indicated that the party is likely to announce the first list of candidates by February-end after the screening committee reports to the central election committee. Where the party expects an intense battle and possible rebellion, it could delay the announcement, sources said.

The Veerashaiva Lingayat leaders and legislators of the Congress are also meeting on Monday evening to chalk out strategies to bring pressure on the party to field more number of community members. Shamanur Shivashankarappa, M.B Patil, and Eshwar Khandre are the leaders who will be participating in the meeting with KPCC Veerashaiva Lingayats State leaders, ticket probable, and community leaders.

Shivamogga airport will be named after Kuvempu: BSY

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

The former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has said the State government will send a proposal to the Centre to name Shivamogga airport after Kuvempu, poet and novelist of the 20th century, the first Kannada writer to get prestigious Jnanpith Award.

Mr. Yediyurappa told presspersons in Shivamogga on Sunday that the State legislature would unanimously propose Kuvempu's name for the airport. "I will propose the name in the session tomorrow (Monday). After taking the support of all parties, the State government will send a proposal to the Centre," he said.

Inauguration on Feb. 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has agreed to inaugurate the airport on February 27. He would announce the name after inaugurating the airport.

"Kuvempu gave Vishwamanava Sandesha (message of universal man). Mr. Modi has been working towards bringing Kuvempu's message in reality. He also believes in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam principle," he said.

Kuvempu was a native of Kuppali in Tirthahalli taluk of Shivamogga district. He was born on December 29, 1904. He wrote poems, novels, essays, short stories, autobiographies, and literary criticism, among others.

He won the Jnanpith in 1967 for his epic *Sri Ramayana Darshanam*. His novels *Kanooru Heggadithi* and *Malegalalli Madumagalu* are considered greatest works of fiction.

Earlier, a few BJP leaders of Shivamogga, including the former Minister K.S.Eshwarappa had suggested naming the airport after Mr. Yediyurappa, who represents Shikaripur in the State Assembly. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai also favoured the suggestion, stating that Shivamogga could have an airport because of Mr. Yediyurappa.

However, Mr. Yediyurappa in April 2022 suggested that the Chief Minister reconsider his decision.

During his visit to Shivamogga on February 8, Mr. Bommai reiterated that the Government had cleared Mr. Yediyurappa's name for the airport, despite the former Chief Minister's opposition. He said the State government would soon send a proposal to the Centre in this regard. Meanwhile, there were online campaigns against naming the airport after Mr. Yediyurappa. Many suggested naming the airport after Kuvempu.

Narendra Modi's visit, though confined to official event, gets political attention too

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on his arrival in Bengaluru on Sunday.

In making his presence felt more often ahead of the elections to the Legislative Assembly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Bengaluru on Sunday evening. This is his second visit to the city in a week.

He is scheduled to inaugurate the five-day 14th edition of biennial Aero India at the Indian Air Force base at Yelahanka on Monday morning. He was in Bengaluru last Monday for a G20 event and later went to Tumakuru district where he inaugurated the helicopter unit of HAL.

On Sunday, he was welcomed by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at the HAL Airport.

Though he is not participating in any political events, his visits to the State, particularly Bengaluru, are looked at with political importance as they have coincided with the preparations for the Assembly elections.

The BJP is giving a special focus on Bengaluru as it accounts for the biggest chunk of Assembly seats – 28 of the total 224 seats. The ruling party feels that the Prime Minister's visits though confined to official programmes would help lend focus on development agenda as part of efforts to reach out to people.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Many names for expressway

There have been suggestions galore on naming the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, which has become the talking point for motorists commuting between the two cities even before its formal inauguration.

Several political leaders have begun suggesting names for the 10-lane expressway, which bypasses major towns en route and reduces the travel time considerably.

Days after Pratap Simha, Lok Sabha member from Mysuru, suggested that the road be called Cauvery Expressway after the river that is considered the lifeline of the region, the former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna and Congress MLCs Dinesh Gooli Gowda and Madhu Made Gowda had favoured the expressway to be named after Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar as a tribute to the contribution of the erstwhile ruler of Mysore.

The suggestions of names for the expressway have continued with Kannada protagonist Vatal Nagaraj, who held a demonstration in Mysuru recently, declaring in his inimitable style, that he was naming the expressway after Bhuvaneshwari, the deity that represents Kannada identity.

Even though Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari had clarified that there was no tradition of naming national highways in the country, he had left the issue open by claiming that he would consider it if the Chief Minister makes a recommendation. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's suggestion in the regard is, however, still awaited.

MLC better choice than MLA?

A poster has been circulating on social media by BJP MLC Ayanur Manjunath's supporters stating that he is a suitable candidate for the Shivamogga City Assembly seat. At present, the former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa is representing the constituency. Last year, he resigned as Minister following allegations of corruption. There are reports that the party may not field him this time, given his age – 74.

Interestingly, whoever created the poster, recommends Mr. Manjunath as a suitable candidate to represent Shivamogga to "control corruption in government offices", "ensure law and order in the city" and to "ensure a life free from fear and prohibitory orders". The poster refers to untoward events that occurred in Shivamogga last year. The district administration imposed prohibitory orders in the city repeatedly following incidents of violence and communal tension. Supporters of Mr. Manjunath seem to be trying to project their leader as a better choice for the constituency than the current MLA, from the same party.

Art of digression

Politicians are masters at the art of digression and BJP's Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh *(in picture)* gave a stellar example of that recently.

During a press conference, Mr. Singh was vociferously criticising the Congress for its "unfulfilled promises" during the tenure of the party government. However, when media persons sought to know from him what happened to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's promises on bringing back black money, creating two crore jobs a year, bringing down fuel prices, and other "unfulfilled promises", Mr. Singh immediately changed the topic and went on to give a glowing account of how India was on its way to becoming $5 trillion economy and so on. And before the media persons could ask subsidiary questions, he wound up the press meet and left.

Laiqh A. Khan
Sathish G.T.
Girish Pattanashetti

Survey records 290 bird species in Nagarahole

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The bird survey conducted at Nagarahole Tiger Reserve from February 9 to 12 has resulted in the recording of 290 bird species, including a few migratory ones.

Though Nagarahole is renowned for tigers and elephants, the survey has shown that it is also a hotspot for birds. The bird survey entailed participation by experts from 8 States. In all, 118 birders took part in the survey which concluded on Sunday, said C. Harshakumar, Director, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve.

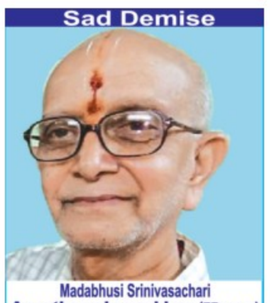
The surveying team also included students and bird watchers who had spread out across different ranges of the tiger reserve

The valedictory of the bird survey was held on Sunday and the results showed some of the rare species, including bar-headed goose, malabar woodshrike, red-headed vulture and white-rumped vulture.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Sad Demise



Madabhusi Srinivasachari
Ananthapadmanabhan (77 years)
D.O.B: 05-11-1945 D.O.D: 12-02-2023
Passed away at his house
Archana Apartments, Door no. 9,
Rameswaram Road,
T.Nagar, Chennai-17
Leaving behind his
Wife Mrs. Mala Ananthapadmanabhan
Host of Relatives & Friends.
Cremation today (13-02-2023) @9.30am
Kannamapet Electric crematorium.
Ct: 9444419318

Lack of safety measures led to death of workers in oil mill: report

The Hindu Bureau
PEDDAPURAM (KAKINADA)

The seven workers who died of asphyxiation in Ambati Subbanna & Co Oil Mill on February 9 did not undergo any formal training to deal with edible oil tanks and cleaning activities.

The workers, including five tribespeople, were deployed by the factory management to remove the oil sludge at the risk of their life, according to the report submitted by a five-member committee, headed by Kakinada Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, which probed in the incident.

It cited many lapses that caused the death of the workers in the factory.

Unfamiliar process

Referring to the findings, the Kakinada police said safety measures were ignored in the factory. The workers who died were not familiar with the operation of the tanks and the associated works assigned to them.

The arrested managing partners of the oil mill, Singavarapu Viswanath and Singavarapu Raghuram, were produced in a local court on Sunday which remanded them in 14-day judicial custody.

Meanwhile, a fact-finding team of the Human Rights Forum alleged that there was no clarity on why two packing workers were deployed to clean the tank.

BJP will not return to power after 2024, says Telangana CM in Assembly

The BRS president launches a trenchant attack on the Union government for its failures, in his more than two-hour reply to the debate on the Appropriation Bills for 2023-24 in the House; he also pointed to Centre's silence on Adani stock issue

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and Chief Minister of Telangana K. Chandrasekhar Rao has said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre would not return to power after the 2024 election, "as the country has gone back on several indicators during the nine-year rule of Mr. Modi".

"After the licence raj of the Congress, the BJP has created a silence raj where wealth is being concentrated in a few individuals who are close to powers that be. Why should anyone vote BJP which is leading the NDA (No Documents Available) government?" he asked.

He said the BJP was harping on the mantra of "socialisation of losses and privatisation of profits" and was therefore, diluting profit-making public sector enterprises to hand them over to its close associates subsequently.

In his more than two-hour reply to the debate on the Appropriation Bills for 2023-24, the CM launched a trenchant attack on the Central government for its "failures". The Centre failed in enhancing the compounded annual growth rate of economy, per capita income, capital formation, controlling fiscal deficit, annual exports growth and other aspects, he said.

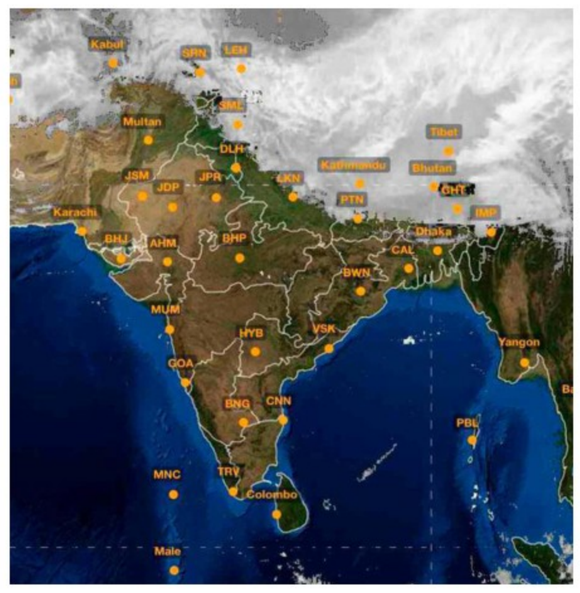
> After licence raj of Congress, the BJP has created a silence raj... Why should anyone vote BJP which is leading the NDA (No Documents Available) government?
>
> **K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO**
> Bharat Rashtra Samithi president

He made a mention of the crisis precipitated following the Adani Group-related developments and wondered why the Centre had not spelt out any action plan to tackle the looming economic crisis so far. "International investors are concerned ever since the expose but the Prime Minister had kept the country and people in the dark about the ongoing turmoil," he said.

He alleged that the claims of propelling the country to a $5-trillion economy was a joke and said that performance could be seen from its ranking at 139 out of the 192 economies in terms of per capita income.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: No weather warning

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.0	16.7	Kozhikode	—	33.8	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	32.8	16.4	Kurnool	—	37.9	20.2
Aizawl	—	—	8.1	Lucknow	—	26.3	13.5
Allahabad	—	27.5	13.6	Madurai	—	34.6	19.1
Bengaluru	—	33.0	15.9	Mangaluru	—	32.6	22.5
Bhopal	—	—	12.5	Mumbai	—	36.3	16.6
Bhubaneswar	—	35.0	18.5	Mysuru	—	32.0	14.0
Chandigarh	—	22.6	9.6	New Delhi	—	23.8	9.8
Chennai	—	32.5	21.4	Patna	—	—	16.6
Coimbatore	—	34.3	19.0	Port Blair	—	32.6	22.1
Dehradun	—	25.5	8.3	Puducherry	—	31.8	19.2
Gangtok	—	13.1	8.0	Pune	—	33.9	14.8
Goa	—	34.0	19.9	Raipur	—	31.8	17.5
Guwahati	—	27.6	13.6	Ranchi	—	28.0	16.4
Hubballi	—	34.0	19.0	Shillong	—	20.0	9.2
Hyderabad	—	35.6	17.9	Shimla	—	9.5	2.8
Imphal	—	25.3	9.1	Srinagar	1.0	9.1	-0.6
Jaipur	—	26.5	12.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.9	22.8
Kochi	—	30.0	23.6	Tiruchi	—	32.9	20.4
Kohima	—	—	7.6	Vijayawada	—	34.8	21.8
Kolkata	—	31.2	21.8	Visakhapatnam	—	30.4	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday: Nil

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.07	.12	35	194	152	
Bengaluru	.08	.89	46	76	117	
Chennai	.21	.47	65	234	148	
Delhi	.14	.79	39	292	189	
Hyderabad	.08	.17	66	174	—	
Kolkata	.16	.13	49	131	93	
Lucknow	.13	.14	79	164	159	
Mumbai	.49	252	.—	360	197	
Pune	.—	.24	54	194	129	
Visakhapatnam	.11	.41	60	155	145	

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Makers of *Kantara* appear before investigating officer in Kozhikode

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The two would be quizzed on Monday too as part of the continuing probe, the police say

Rishab Shetty and Vijay Kirgandur, director and producer of Kannada blockbuster *Kantara*, respectively, appeared before the investigating officer at the Kozhikode Town Police station in Kerala on Sunday in a case filed by the Kerala band Thaikkudam Bridge accusing *Kantara* filmmakers of copying their music and using it for the *Varaharoopam* song.

The two appeared before Deputy Commissioner of Police K.E. Baiju following an order from the Kerala High Court that had laid out specific conditions. The Town Police said the two would be quizzed on Monday too as part of the continuing investigation. They said the complaint was that the *Kantara* team plagiarised Thaikkodam Bridge's *Navarasam* that was released in 2015.

The Supreme Court had, however, stayed one of the conditions previously laid by the Kerala High Court directing the two not to exhibit the film with the controversial song till the final order in the copyright infringement case. It had criticised the High Court order for imposing such conditions and observed that copyright issues could not be decided in an anticipatory bail application. A Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala had also issued notice to the Kerala government and sought its reply in two weeks.

There was also another modified condition by the Supreme Court Bench that Vijay Kirgandur and Rishab Shetty be released immediately if arrested during the two-day interrogation. The top court passed the interim order last Friday taking note of the submissions challenging some of the five conditions mentioned in the High Court order.

Oommen Chandy shifted to Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A team of doctors and paramedics shifted former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, MLA, 79, by air ambulance to a private hospital in Bengaluru for continuing cancer care. His family accompanied him.

Mr. Chandy was under treatment for pneumonia in Thiruvananthapuram. He appeared weak and spoke whisperingly, given the throat affliction.

Burglars break open 4 ATMs, steal ₹72.5 lakh

D. Madhavan
TIRUVANNAMALAI

Burglars broke open four automated teller machines on the Cuddalore-Chittoor Road in Tiruvannamalai district in the early hours of Sunday and made away with over ₹72.50 lakh in cash after setting fire to the machines.

Three of the ATMs belong to the State Bank of India and one belongs to India One. They are located around 20 km from one another.

The police said the incidents came to light after beat police personnel noticed the damaged chest boxes during their routine patrolling. They were at these facilities to sign the log books kept there.

Two of the ATMs are located near Thenimalai on Thandrampattu Main Road and near Mariamman temple in Tiruvannamalai town. Another ATM is located near the railway station at Polur. The fourth is located near the Government Boys High School at Kalasapakkam.

IGP N. Kannan says as similar offences have occurred in Maharashtra, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, the gang might have come from other States. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The three ATMs of SBI had CCTV cameras, while the one at Kalasapakkam had none.

The police said the incident might have happened after 2 a.m. Sunday. A gas-welding machine was used to break the chest boxes. After looting the money, the suspects set fire to the machines.

The value of the cash robbed are estimated to be ₹32 lakh (Thandrampattu Main Road), ₹19.50 lakh (Mariamman temple) in Tiruvannamalai; ₹18 lakh at Polur; and ₹3 lakh at Kalasapakkam.

Accompanied by K. Karthikeyan, S. Rajesh Kannan and K. Balakrishnan, the SPs of Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Tirupattur districts, N. Kannan, Inspector-General of Police (IGP), North Zone, said the burglars had targeted a particular type of ATMs as they were aware of their mechanism. As similar offences had occurred in Maharashtra, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh earlier, the gang might have come from other States, he said.

After examining the CCTV footage on the Chittor-Cuddalore Road and at toll plazas, the police said the suspects likely used a white SUV. "It [the robbery] was done by a gang, but we don't know how many were involved in it. One SP has rushed to a particular State based on the technical leads that we got," Mr. Kannan said.

Eight special teams have been formed. Three of them have been sent to neighbouring States such as Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and the others are focussing on Tiruvannamalai district. Around 85 police checkpoints have been created in Tiruvannamalai, Ranipet, Vellore and Tirupattur, in the border areas and on key routes to neighbouring States.

Pinarayi slams Shah's 'anti-Kerala' remarks, Modi's Tripura comment

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, on Sunday, slammed Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the latter's alleged "anti-Kerala remark" on Sunday.

Campaigning for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Karnataka, Mr. Shah had said, somewhat cryptically, that only his party could keep Karnataka safe and "there is Kerala near you; I don't want to say much".

'Oasis of secularism'

At a function organised by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] function in Kottayam, Mr. Vijayan challenged Mr. Shah to identify the peril Kerala posed to Karnataka. He said Kerala was an oasis of peace and secularism, and the Sangh Parivar agenda has found little traction in the State.

"In Kerala, there is no Sri Rama Sene, who ransacked a 150-year-old church during the 2021 Christmas season in Mangaluru. That must be perturbing for the BJP," he said.

Without directly mentioning Mr. Shah's remark that the Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) in Karnataka "believed in the 18th century Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan," Mr. Vijayan said the BJP stoked communal divisions for political dividends by demonising minorities to turn public attention away from increasing poverty and hunger, the rising cost of living, and the unjustifiable concentration of wealth in an elite few.

Mr. Vijayan also retorted sharply to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that "Congress and Communists wrestled with each other in Kerala while they were in cahoots in Tripura".

Scene in Tripura

He said Mr. Modi knew that the BJP could exert influence in Tripura only after it brought the Congress rank and file to the Sangh Parivar fold through threats and inducements. "The Congress is BJP's recruiting agency. KPCC president K. Sudhakaran had recently said that he could join the BJP at a moment's notice".

In Tripura, Congress worked merely switched over to the BJP. The same turncoats menaced CPI(M) workers at the BJP's instance. Mr. Vijayan ruled out any electoral alliance with Congress but did not rule out tactical arrangements at the constituency level to defeat the BJP in Tripura.

He said Congress's gentle approach to the Sangh Parivar saw the rise of Hindu majoritarian nationalism in the country and that the BJP's neoliberal policies dovetailed with that of the Congress.

Man 'involved' in inter-State burglaries arrested

The Hindu Bureau
RAYACHOTI

The Annamayya district police in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday night nabbed a man allegedly involved in many inter-State burglaries, and seized electrical and automobile materials valued at more than ₹15 lakh.

On a complaint filed last November, the SP had formed a special team to crack the case. Upon further inquiry, the police identified a dozen more similar incidents reported from various places in the Rayalaseema region. The police zeroed in on a man hailing from Kadapa district, arrested and remanded him.

Final count of subsisting structures in buffer zone in Kerala likely to go up

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The number of subsisting structures within the 1-km buffer zone of the protected areas in Kerala would be anything between 70,000 and 80,000, according to the latest count.

The Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environment Centre is in the process of final vetting of the data on assets generated by people through the mobile application, Asset Mapper, and received at the help desks formed in around 80 local bodies falling under the buffer zone regime. The centre had earlier identified 49,374 structures using satellite imagery.

The State government had embarked on a massive exercise of collecting the data with the help of the public as it was flooded with complaints that a large number of buildings were missed out in the satellite survey.

Tug of war: Members of the Idukki Land Freedom Movement blocking the road at Kumily against the buffer zones. FILE PHOTO

The public had uploaded details of 62,309 assets through Asset Mapper and provided information on 81,258 buildings through the help desks.

Duplicated data

In several protected areas, a large number of structures were found mentioned in both the Asset Mapper as well as at the help desk. Similarly, hundreds of structures identified through the satellite survey were also included in the app as well as through the help desk. Such duplication of data will be removed. Structures located outside the buffer zone and included on the list will also be removed, sources said.

A large number of structures that could not be picked up in the satellite survey but were identified by people will be added to the final list.

The final list will be used to buttress the arguments of the State government that human settlements have come up in the ecologically sensitive zone (ESZ) and hence the 1-km buffer zone regime shall be relaxed for Kerala, sources said.

K. Viswanath had been a guiding force in Indian film industry, say director's fans

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Abhiruchi Sahiti Samskritika Samstha organised a meeting here on Sunday in memory of film director K. Viswanath, who passed away on February 2.

The speakers, on the occasion, shared their association and experiences with Kasinadhuni Viswanath, popularly known as Kalatapasvi Viswanath. They said that he had been a guiding force in the Indian film industry and made films which have been recognised not only by the Indian film industry but also made an impact internationally.

K. Viswanath

Mr. Viswanath was accorded India's highest film honour, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for lifetime achievement in cinema, they recalled.

They felt that Viswanath deserves to be honoured with Padma Vibhushan award. Vijayawada former Mayor Jandhyala Shankar said that States such as Tamil Nadu were in the forefront in recognising talent, art and culture. successive governments in Andhra Pradesh have failed to recognise the services of Viswanath to the Telugu film industry. Undoubtedly, he deserves the Padma award, he said.

Former Deputy Speaker Mandali Buddha Prasad said that Viswanath was a down to earth person. He was a legendary director who made critically acclaimed films and also brought recognition to Telugu culture and Indian arts.

Not losing steam

The push for infrastructure will be a big fillip to construction goods

The latest industrial output estimates from the National Statistical Office indicate an across-the-board loss of momentum in December with overall production growth slowing to 4.3% year-on-year, from November's 7.3% pace. While activity was unchanged or moderated across all the three constituents of the Index of Industrial Production – mining, manufacturing and electricity – the largest sector manufacturing, with a weight of almost 78%, was the biggest drag as the expansion decelerated to 2.6%, from the preceding month's 6.4% increase. Assessed on a sequential or month-on-month basis, mining and manufacturing posted slowdowns, with only electricity growing 7.6% in the wake of November's contraction of 1.5%. Manufacturing, where the sequential growth slowed by more than 2 percentage points to 4.7%, from 6.9% in the previous month, was weighed down by three of the six use-based sectors including consumer durables, consumer non-durables and capital goods. The three categories reflect a broader trend in the economy. For one, private consumption is still to regain an enduring footing notwithstanding a post-pandemic surge in pent-up spending most visible in the services sector. Production of consumer durables shrank 10.4% year-on-year and 2.2% sequentially in December, after rebounding in November following festival demand. Non durables experienced a sharp sequential deceleration, with growth braking to 7.4% month-on-month.

The capital goods data point to continuing uncertainty on the private sector investment front. Production of the plant and machinery ordered when expanding or starting ventures is struggling to sustain momentum, with output growth sliding appreciably both sequentially and year-on-year. In December, growth from a year earlier in the segment slowed to 7.6%, compared with November's 21.6%. Month-on-month, the slowdown was starker with output barely inching up 0.2%, after expanding 13% in November. However, primary and infrastructure and construction goods offer hope that some positive momentum can be built on with the right policy measures. While the sequential pace of growth for primary goods output quickened to 9.2% from 1.1%, the month-on-month advance for infrastructure and construction ticked up to 4%, from November's 3.2%. With the RBI's survey of the manufacturing sector's outlook indicating firms expect some softening in order books and overseas demand in the current quarter, a lot will hinge on policy staying supportive. The Union Budget's plan to provide a push for infrastructure through a substantial increase in the government's capital expenditure should provide a big fillip to construction goods and is likely to feed through to other sectors as well in the coming months.

Cyclical troubles

Pakistan pins its hopes on another IMF bailout to stave off the economic crisis

After 10 days of talks with the Pakistan government, an IMF delegation left Islamabad on February 9 without a concluding statement either on its review of an existing $7 billion loan programme or on a fresh tranche of loans to help the distressed economy. The Shehbaz Sharif-led government insisted that this was standard process and that the country would expect a loan tranche after the IMF's completed its internal process were complete but the desperation was also evident in the government reportedly agreeing to fresh taxes, reducing subsidies and increasing levies on fuel consumption to meet the IMF's expectations. Economic distress is deepening – power blackouts persist even in urban areas, annual inflation was at 27.5% in January (its highest since 1975), the Pakistani rupee has fallen to nearly 270 a dollar and forex reserves have fallen below $3 billion, the lowest since February 2014, threatening a balance of payments crisis. The effect of last year's debilitating floods continues to weigh on the economy with thousands still homeless, agricultural land destroyed and many people without adequate food. The perilous state of the economy explains the desperation for yet another IMF bailout, which would be the sixth such facility the agency extended since 2000, and which seems inevitable as this would stave off the balance of payments issues, with complementary support from traditional allies in West Asia and also China.

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the floods notwithstanding, the cyclical nature of the economic issues and the country's repeated reliance on IMF packages during crises point to a failure of governance. While import dependency, low export competitiveness and poor fiscal management are proximate reasons for the recurring crisis in a shock vulnerable economy, it must also be said that this is an indirect outcome of the absence of an unrestrained run of power for civilian democracy in a country where the military has a preponderant role. With elections due later this year, little trust remaining between the key political parties and the military seeking to meddle in the political process, things do not forebode too well for the country. Unless the governance structures refocus themselves to addressing long-term structural weaknesses in the economy and find ways to improve relations with neighbours such as India, the cyclicity of the economic problems will remain. But for that to happen, the military establishment has to take a back seat: a bleak prospect in the medium term.

The spirit of the law lies in this dissenting judgment

Suhrith Parthasarathy

is an advocate practising in the Madras High Court

How must the rights of religious groups be balanced with the rights of its adherents? This question has long plagued India's courts. When one such clash arose in 1962, the Supreme Court of India, through a 4:1 ruling, firmly placed group rights over individual freedom. There, in *Sardar Syedna Taher Saifuddin vs The State Of Bombay*, a challenge was mounted by the leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, the Dai-ul-Mutlaq, to the Bombay Prevention of Excommunication Act, 1949. The law prohibited religious communities from expelling individuals from a group's membership. The petitioner claimed that he served not only as a trustee of the community's properties but that he had also been vested with a power to excommunicate from the denomination any member of his choice. In his belief, this power was integral to the Dawoodi Bohras' collective right to religious freedom.

The Court, with Chief Justice of India B.P. Sinha dissenting, declared the law unconstitutional. It held that the Dai's power to excommunicate was so essential to the group's faith that a legislation, in the name of social welfare, cannot be allowed to reform a religion out of its existence. The verdict has long been a subject of critique. On February 10, 2023, the Court, through Justice A.S. Oka's judgment *(Central Board of Dawoodi Bohra Community vs The State Of Maharashtra)*, agreed that it merited reconsideration, for at least two reasons.

First, the original ruling had failed to examine whether the rights of religious denominations ought to be balanced with other fundamental rights, particularly the rights of its individual members to be treated with equal care and dignity.

Second, in the years since *Sardar Syedna*, Indian jurisprudence has evolved to a point where any act of excommunication ought to be tested on a touchstone of constitutional morality. Given these failures, the Court believed that the issues involved ought to be resolved by a larger Bench, in this case by a nine-judge Bench, where questions emanating out of the Sabarimala dispute are already pending consideration.

In India, conflict is inevitable

There is, in the words of the former Chief Justice of Canada Beverly McLachlin, no "magic barometer" to measure limits on religious freedom. But given the inextricable link between religion and social life – especially stark in India – denominational rights invariably come into conflict both with laws of general application and with the individual rights of a group's adherents.

When the Bench searches for answers to the questions posed by 'Sardar Syedna', it would do well to focus on the opinion of the then Chief Justice of India

Resolving one such battle, the Court, in *Shirur Mutt* (1954) held that it was only those aspects of religion which are "essential" to faith that deserve constitutional protection. Determining what is essential, the Court ruled, would depend on what devotees to the faith deem as integral to that religion. This exercise was meant to be narrowly tailored. But the carefully drawn-out distinction between the religious and the secular soon collapsed, and soon the Court, through a series of rulings, assumed theological authority and interpreted religious scriptures to determine which practices were, in fact, central to faith.

Over time, this "essential practices" doctrine began to border on the absurd. In one instance, the Court found that the *Tandava* dance practised by the Anandi Margis was inessential to religion even though the sect's founder expressly mandated the performance of the dance. The upshot was this: judges, quite contrary to deciding when the state must be allowed to legitimately intervene in matters of religion, were sketching out boundaries to determine which rites and rituals were deserving of constitutional protection in the first place.

This approach undermined the elementary rationale behind the guarantee of religious freedom: that members of religious groups must enjoy an ethical autonomy to determine for themselves how best to lead their lives. But equally, as the judgment in *Sardar Syedna* attested, the essential practices doctrine also meant that the Court was sometimes unwilling to strike down a practice that impinged on individual rights merely because the practice in question as essential to faith. It was for this reason that Justice D.Y. Chandrachud suggested in his concurring opinion in the Sabarimala case that we look towards alternatives.

One choice can be found, as it happens, in *Sardar Syedna*. There, in a rousing dissent, CJI Sinha held that it was immaterial whether the practice of excommunication was essential to religion. What the Court had to see was the effect that the practice had on the expelled adherent. As the judgment recognised, a person who had been excommunicated would be disentitled from using the communal mosque and burial ground, and would practically be regarded an outcast. What is more, because of the expulsion, no other person from the community could have any contact, social or religious, with the excommunicated member. Thus, the law in question, as the CJI wrote, merely carried out the "strict injunction of Article 17" – through which untouchability in any form stood abolished.

There is a clear logic to this opinion. Religious groups are vested with rights so that independent members can come together to fulfil collective desires. At the heart of this guarantee is the individual. Therefore, howsoever essential a practice might be to faith, it cannot be allowed to undermine the dignity of the individual.

The subject of 'constitutional morality'

Article 26, which recognises the rights of religious denominations, begins with a dictate that its promise would be "subject to public order, morality and health". What might morality mean? In referring *Sardar Syedna* to a larger Bench, Justice Oka makes clear that morality today must be understood to mean "constitutional morality". It must subsume within it the fundamental values supporting the Constitution: among them, the ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity. Justice Oka wrote, "Even assuming that the excommunication of members of the Dawoodi Bohra community is always made on religious grounds, the effect and consequences thereof, on the person excommunicated needs to be considered in the context of justiciable constitutional rights." He found, on the face of things, that excommunication brought with it serious civic consequences, affecting a person's right to lead a meaningful life.

History has repeatedly shown us that discrimination within religious boundaries often breaches those frontiers and tends to impinge on a person's relationship with the wider world. If autonomy vested in groups over matters of religion is allowed to trump the rights guaranteed to individual members (to be treated with dignity and equal care and concern) the central tenets underlying the Constitution will cave in.

The anti-exclusion principle rests on a further axiom: that power equations within religious denominations mean that rules are often enforced by dominant community leaders. This leaves little scope for what the professor of law, Madhavi Sunder, described as "cultural dissent". In her words, a law that favours autonomy of the group over the autonomy of the individual will have "the harmful effect of favouring the view of the association proffered by the powerful over the views proffered by less powerful members of the group that is, traditionally subordinate members such as women, children, and sexual minorities".

The dissenting judgment in *Sardar Syedna* rests on similar foundations. When the nine-judge Bench searches for answers to the questions posed to it, it will do well to turn to CJI Sinha's opinion, for in it lies the brooding spirit of the law.

India-U.S. space cooperation, from handshake to hug

Pranav R. Satyanath

is a research analyst at The Takshashila Institution

India and the United States agreeing to advance space collaboration in several areas, under the 'initiative on critical and emerging technology' umbrella, including human space exploration and commercial space partnership, comes at a crucial time for both countries. This follows from the eighth meeting of the U.S.-India Civil Space Joint Working Group (CSJWG), that was held on January 30-31, 2023.

In November 2022, the U.S. kicked off its Artemis programme by launching the Orion spacecraft towards the moon and bringing it safely back to earth. India itself is set to embark on its first human spaceflight mission (Gaganyaan) in 2024. The two countries have also taken significant strides in advancing the private space sector. Together, these endeavours will shape and impact U.S. and Indian space policies and programmes over the next decade. In this context, a U.S.-India collaboration seems straightforward. India could secure technologies and expertise by collaborating with an advanced spacefaring nation; the U.S. could strengthen its relationship with India on a matter that seems less controversial than others.

But it is not straightforward: certain structural factors limit the extent to which the U.S. and India can collaborate in the short term. This is why India-U.S. cooperation can advance at a measured pace, to enable sustainable long-term civilian and military space partnerships.

A mismatch in interests, capabilities

The first structural factor that limits long-term India-U.S. space cooperation is the mismatch in the two nations' interests in outer space. The U.S. has committed to returning to the moon – and this time to stay there for the long term. Although the U.S. and its partners stress the importance of maintaining capabilities in low-earth orbit, their ambitions are firmly set on the moon. In this

Overcoming the structural barriers can lead to a deeper and long-term partnership in the new space age

regard, the Artemis Program, the Artemis Accords, and the Biden administration's National Cislunar Science & Technology Strategy constitute the foundation for American ambitions beyond earth orbits.

Meanwhile, India's scientific community focuses on building the nation's capability in and under earth orbits. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) currently undertakes fewer than 10 launches each year. The Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme hopes to sustain India's human presence in space for the long term. This is not to say that India does not aim for the moon, Mars or beyond. But India's top priority is to substantially increase its satellite and launch capabilities in earth orbits and catch up with other spacefaring nations such as China.

The asymmetry in capabilities is the second structural factor limiting India-U.S. space cooperation. The U.S. has the highest number of registered satellites in space. It also has a range of launch vehicles serving both commercial and national-security needs. Private entity SpaceX, for example, managed to achieve a record 61 launches in 2022, far higher than the number of launches undertaken by any other commercial entity or country. The American private sector has also assumed the challenge of replacing the International Space Station by 2030 with many smaller stations.

The greatest challenge for India here is lack of capacity. The country has just over 60 satellites in orbit and cannot undertake double-digit launches annually. The Indian government also opened the space industry to the private sector only in 2020. Since the U.S. already has an extensive network of partners for space cooperation, it has few technical incentives to cooperate with India.

Compounding these problems are disagreements on how best to govern space activities on the moon and other celestial bodies. Even though countries have a mindset to collaborate, the structural factors overpower diplomatic incentives to pursue long-term cooperation.

Some novel solutions

The standard solution to induce long-term cooperation is to sustain the engagement between academics, the private sector and state-led entities in the two countries. Sustained engagement could also take the form of collaborating on highly specialised projects such as the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission.

But these solutions are slow and not entirely suited for the new space age, where diplomacy struggles to keep up with the rate of technological innovation. So, India and the U.S. must find novel solutions to cooperate in the new space age to achieve a meaningful partnership.

One form of cooperation is a partnership between state and private entities; or, as agreed in the most recent meeting, a convention of American and Indian aerospace companies to advance collaboration under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) programme. Such an arrangement could be taken further. India could send its astronauts to train at American private companies. This could help India reduce its dependence on Russia while ISRO builds its own astronaut training centre.

Another novel arrangement could be a consortium led by the government-owned NewSpace India Limited which involves private companies in the U.S. This setup could accelerate India's human spaceflight programme and give the U.S. an opportunity to accommodate Indian interests in earth orbits.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democratic functioning

In a welcome change, the ongoing Budget session in Parliament is feeling more heat than noise. But it ought to be more robust in debate and demanding in seeking answers. Higher pedestals must be sought out by the custodians of our democratic ethos. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom personally answers the Opposition's queries in Parliament, practically on a weekly basis. The primacy of Parliament and the institutions of governance and oversight ensure a robustness of democracies. Every incumbent U.S. President has been subject to intense legal scrutiny should occasion demand. If in the past, President Trump was subject to a legal investigation, we now have President Biden under the lens in regard to his handling of classified documents. Parliamentary onus must weigh heavily over executive prerogative.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

The Prime Minister's strong rebuttal of remarks made by the Opposition, especially the Congress, must be looked at in perspective. The Opposition's role is to provide constructive criticism of the government's work. Its 'fault-finding' is a part of what is expected of it/them. Therefore, the stance by the ruling party, which reminded one of an election campaign, can only be viewed as a diversionary tactic from grave topics such as the Hindenburg saga.

Rumaan A. Yadahalli,
Bengaluru

Watch the word

iIt is distressing that certain leaders of national parties are often found using intemperate language against their opponents. Even those in the party that just completed a 'remove hate and unite people with love and brotherhood' long march are guilty of this. It is evident even in Parliament too, considered to be the sanctum sanctorum of democracy. It is the silence or indifference of citizens that is primarily responsible for the rise of intemperate language. Since there is no law or code of conduct to stop this virus of hate-filled language in political discourse, only unanimous 'public revulsion' will ensure its exclusion .

P.H. Hema Sagar,
Secunderabad

Corrections & Clarifications

A report on discovery of lithium deposits in J&K (February 11, 2023, some editions) referred to 5.9 tonnes of lithium deposits. It should have been 5.9 million tonnes.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

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A sign of things to come

Brinda Karat

is a member of the CPI(M) Polit Bureau

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's interview to the Hindi and English publications of his organisation contains many signs of the times we live in and of things to come.

Unconstitutional power

The first sign points to the unconstitutional power that the RSS wields. Mr. Bhagwat said that while swayamsevaks did not hold positions of political power earlier, they do now. He said, "Whatever the swayamsevaks do in politics, we are held accountable for the same. Even if we are not implicated directly by others, there is certainly some accountability as it is in the Sangh where swayamsevaks are trained. Therefore, we are forced to think... which things we should pursue with due diligence." Recognised political parties are accountable for the actions of those elected on their ticket. But it was not the Bharatiya Janata Party president but the RSS chief who was talking about accountability. Some 70% of ministers in the Cabinet have been trained in the Sangh. The Prime Minister himself was a Pracharak. Does the RSS have oversight of their actions? If not, what does Mr. Bhagwat mean by "some accountability"? Which are the "things" the RSS pursues with "due diligence"? There are many cultural organisations in India representing different political beliefs. But can any of them claim that they are held accountable for the actions of those in positions of power? There is nothing cultural about an extra-constitutional authority, which is what the RSS is. This has now been confirmed by Mr. Bhagwat himself.

The second sign is the distance between the Constitution, the rule of law and the "culture" that the RSS promotes. In the interview, there is a communal distortion of history. Mr. Bhagwat said, "Hindu society has been at war for 1,000 years." Where and when did this homogenous society exist? Does such a history include all the monarchs who collaborated with conquerors and, in some cases, invited their interventions? Does it include all the "Hindu" rulers who, in order to extend their own kingdoms, massacred other kings and their armies? Does it include those who committed atrocities against those lower than them in the caste hierarchy and who observed the casteist rules laid down by the *Manusmriti*? To build an overarching Hindutva identity, the RSS manufactures a Hindu-Muslim antagonistic binary, as though the entire history of India was a war to defend one religion against another. This, then, is presented as a historical injustice to justify communal aggression today. Mr. Bhagwat said, "It is but natural for those at war to be aggressive... the war is... against an enemy within – it is a war to defend Hindu society, Hindu dharma and Hindu culture." Those who had believed that dialogue with the RSS would help moderate views will be disappointed by what is virtually a call to arms by the RSS chief. He said, "Islam has nothing to fear but Muslims have to give up their boisterous rhetoric of supremacy." This means Muslims will be scrutinised by the RSS.

Mr. Bhagwat's remark is a modified version of the comments by K.B. Hedgewar and M.S. Golwalkar that "Muslims can live in India wholly subordinated to the Hindu nation." These RSS icons had identified the "internal enemy" as not only Muslims but also communists and Christians. Mr. Bhagwat has extended the application of the remark to "all those who live here – whether a Hindu or a communist must give up this logic." The logic to be given up is that of the Constitution and the opposition to an ideology that led to the killing of Mahatma Gandhi. This communal autocracy is a reminder that different parts of the Constitution, which make up its basic structure, are indivisible – when secularism is attacked, democracy cannot survive. The defence of minority rights and the separation of religion from politics are critical to the defence of democracy. This includes the fight against all kinds of extremism, including Islamic extremism. One communalism strengthens the other.

Flag-bearer of Hindutva

The third sign is the RSS claim that it speaks on behalf of Hindu society. The RSS can legitimately claim to be the flag-bearer of Hindutva, a political concept that has nothing to do with religion or the religious belief of millions of Hindus. It is striking that the chief of an organisation who spoke of "Hindu interest" had nothing to say about the economic and social plight of the common Hindu – the worker or the farmer. On the contrary, Mr. Bhagwat described Hindu society as "prosperous and powerful." The RSS seems to see the prosperity of some Hindus, but not the poverty of so many others.

Similarly, there was not a word of condemnation for those engaging in caste violence against Dalits. The only mention of caste was when Mr. Bhagwat approved of the slogan 'Jai Shri Ram' as it "strung together all jatis and sects." This reveals a cynical strategy to use "Lord Ram" as a political instrument to overcome caste-based inequalities.

On the RSS's approach to women, what was new was Mr. Bhagwat's statement that the organisation would consider how to involve women more directly in the RSS shakhas. While it remains to be seen how this will impact the male bastion, it may facilitate the training of women in the mould of "natural aggression." Like those in the government, there was silence on dowry deaths, sexual assaults on women and children, and on acts of domestic violence.

In the 75th year of Independence, the interview by the RSS chief serves as a wake-up call for all citizens of how much India has to lose.

Mohan Bhagwat's recent statements serve as a wake-up call for all citizens of how much India has to lose

A medium of catharsis for Kashmiris

In the groundswell of support for Rahul Gandhi, there is a message for Delhi

STATE OF PLAY

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The warm welcome given to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Kashmir leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra surprised the party, security agencies and political pundits in equal measure. Kashmiris, who have been mostly hushed in voicing their views after the Centre ended Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status in 2019, used his Kashmir trip to put across a cryptic message to Delhi, which politicians and policymakers must decipher and build on.

The first unexpected images of Mr. Gandhi's visit emerged at Qazigund, the Kashmir Valley's gateway, when he arrived from the tunnel on January 28. The people's enthusiasm to see and touch the Congress leader made his security nervous. Even intelligence agencies failed to predict the huge turnout. As there was no one to man the ropes and inner security was compromised at Qazigund, Mr. Gandhi preferred to take a bullet-proof car to reach his next stop, Khanabal, in Anantnag district.

Security was stepped up after the Qazigund episode. Security forces ensured that people did not swarm the national highway, where Mr. Gandhi was to resume his foot march in south Kashmir – the region that has had the reputation of being militancy's capital in the Valley for many years now. The images of women and children walking on almost barren paddy fields during winter further added to the curiosity about Mr. Gandhi's popularity.

From Panthachowk to Srinagar's Lal Chowk, the young and old, and men and women, either eagerly waited to shake hands with Mr. Gandhi or made their way to the windows of their houses to catch a glimpse of him. The eyes of many women welled up with tears on seeing him. During Mr. Gandhi's Srinagar stay, men disembarked from cars on Boulevard road to hug him. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that even the regional mainstream leaders of Kashmir have failed to receive such a spontaneous response from the people in many years. There has been such a groundswell of support only during militants' funerals or separatist leaders' speeches in south Kashmir.

These images from the Bharat Jodo Yatra were in stark contrast to Mr. Gandhi's two-day visit in August 2021, just four days ahead of Independence Day when he failed to create any buzz. Barely anyone remembers the statements he made that year. On the other hand, this time, his speech from the Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium was live streamed on social media. The Gandhi scion wore a pheran – a local long woollen gown – amidst heavy snowfall while he delivered his speech. It is important to note that the Congress has only islands of constituencies in Kashmir, which are mostly away from the urban and political centres of the Valley. It never held sway in these areas.

What then led to this historic gathering of people? The support lent by the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party may have fuelled the party cadres' interest. But questions remained unanswered. Why did Kashmiris break into tears on seeing Mr. Gandhi, rush to their windows, or want to hug him near the Dal lake?

Mr. Gandhi seems to have been a medium of catharsis for Kashmiris, who have stopped expressing themselves since 2019 in the face of many clampdowns. By joining him, people also reclaimed the political space that has been squeezed post August 5, 2019. By walking with Mr. Gandhi, Kashmiris sent out the political message that they believe in principles such as democracy, plurality, civility and a detestation for hate politics, despite the popular depiction of them as Islamists. And it is these principles that Mr. Gandhi represented while travelling to Kashmir. The people were in awe of neither Mr. Gandhi nor the Congress; they were enchanted by the course correction that the Congress leader represented and the anger he shared with him against a certain ideology.

This support and release of emotions was also a subtle message to the Bharatiya Janata Party and the policymakers in Delhi regarding the policies they pursue in Kashmir. All the political pundits will agree that Mr. Gandhi's sudden and rare popularity in Kashmir may not necessarily translate into any upswing in votes for him if elections were to be held in the region. But for Kashmiris, Mr. Gandhi served as a medium through which they could tell their stories of despair and speak of their desire to live a dignified life.

Service firms on recovery path, manufacturing still a concern

While pessimism levels among urban consumers have declined, confidence about the economy is yet to reach pre-pandemic levels

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The share of urban consumers who were pessimistic about the Indian economy continued to decline in January 2023 though more than half of them said the situation has worsened compared to a year ago.

Chart 1A shows the responses from a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) survey conducted across 19 major cities between January 2 and 11. When asked to comment on their current perception about the economic situation, 52.1% said it has worsened. This is the lowest share since the pandemic outbreak. Still, the share was significantly higher than the 28.3% who said the economic situation has improved (not plotted on the graph).

Chart 1B shows that 49.9% of the respondents were pessimistic about their current employment scenario. Notably, in the last two survey editions – November 2022 and January 2023 – the share has remained below the 50% mark. Due to the economic slowdown in 2019 and the pandemic that followed, a majority had remained pessimistic since July 2019, but that trend has changed.

Chart 1C shows that 29.6% of the respondents were pessimistic about their current income levels. This is the lowest share since the pandemic outbreak, but is still considerably higher than the pre-pandemic levels.

Worryingly, close to 94% of the respondents continued to say that price levels of commodities have increased **(Chart 1D)**.

Though optimism is yet to return to pre-pandemic levels, the degree of pessimism about the economy, jobs and income levels has declined. High prices, though, are still a sore point.

Chart 2 shows the growth in new orders received by 800 manufacturing companies surveyed by the RBI. The quarter-on-quarter growth of new orders received turned negative in Q2FY23 (July-September 2022) after being in the positive for four straight quarters.

Chart 2 also shows the response of a survey conducted in 1,356 manufacturing companies about their order books. The graph shows the share of companies which said new orders had increased. Only 33% said their order books had increased in the latest quarter.

Chart 3 shows the results of the RBI's survey that capture the growth in the services and infrastructure sectors. The latest data are for October-December 2022. In the survey, 1,091 companies were asked to comment on their turnover. The chart plots the net response – the difference between those who said it had increased and those who said it had decreased. A positive number points to a higher share of companies recording an increase in turnover and vice-versa. The chart hints at a recovery in the turnover of both the service and infrastructure sectors. In the latest period, 49.2% of service sector companies reported that their turnovers had increased, 45.2% reported that there was no change and only 5.5% said their turnovers had decreased. So, the net response was +43.7% points. This was much higher than the pre-pandemic levels. A similarly positive net response was reported by the infrastructure firms.

Chart 4 plots the results of RBI's quarterly bank lending survey. Senior loan officers were asked to assess loan demand. The latest data are for October-December 2022. The chart the plots net response. The demand for loans in the agriculture, manufacturing and retail sectors recorded a downturn, while showing a major uptick in the service sector and an increase in the infrastructure sector. So, while the service and infrastructure sectors are firmly on the recovery path with the demand for loans continuing to grow, there are some hiccups in the manufacturing sector.

Recovery tracker

The charts are based on data collated from various surveys conducted by the RBI on consumer confidence, orders received by manufacturing firms, the turnover of the services and infrastructure sectors, and demand for loans

Chart 1 | The charts show the results of the RBI's consumer confidence survey conducted across 19 major cities between January 2 and 11, 2023

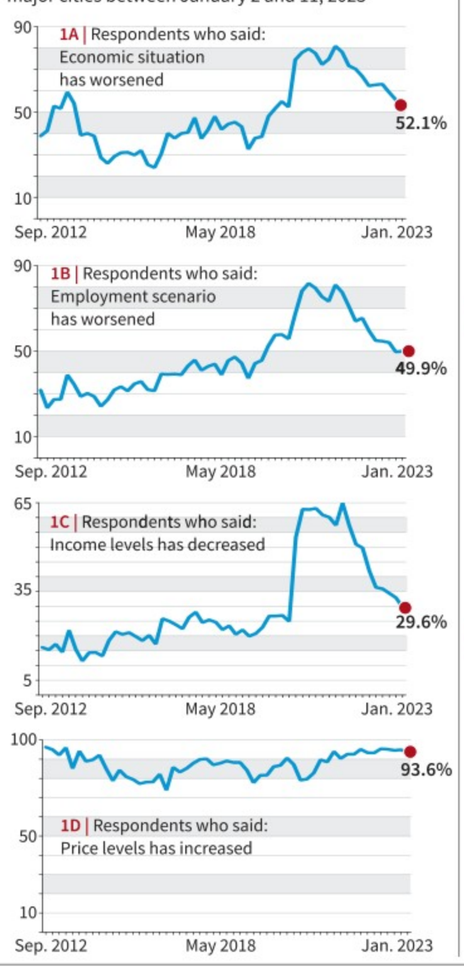


Chart 2 | The chart shows the q-o-q growth (%) in new orders received by manufacturing firms and the survey response of such companies

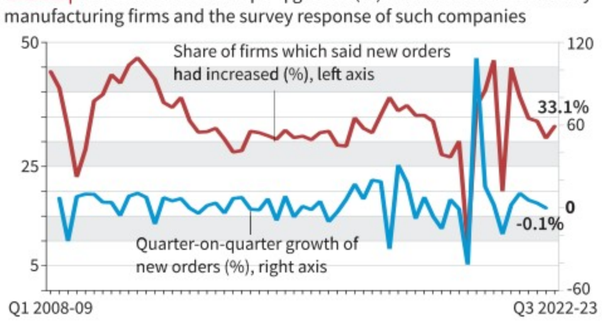


Chart 3 | The chart plots the net response of the services and infrastructure sectors companies

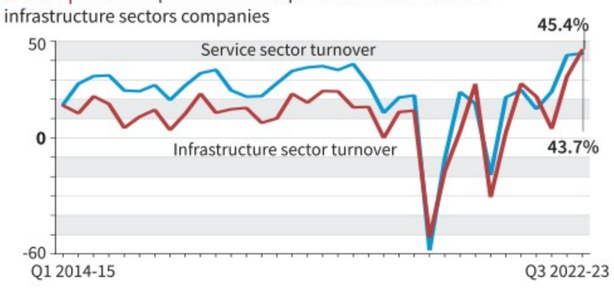
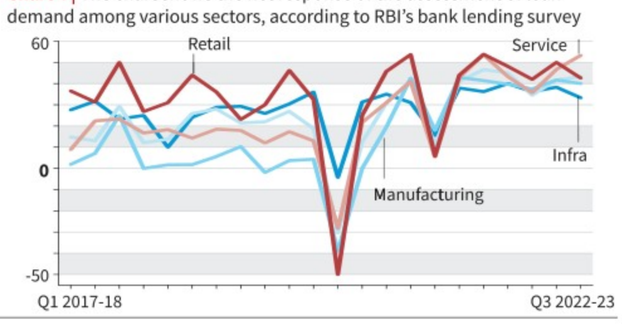


Chart 4 | The chart shows the net response of the assessment of loan demand among various sectors, according to RBI's bank lending survey



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 13, 1973

"Evidence of CIA activities in Orissa"

Bhubaneswar, Feb. 12: The Orissa Government "has evidence of CIA activities in the State but that cannot be divulged in public interest," the Chief Minister, Mrs. Nandini Satpathy, told the State Assembly to-day. Making a statement in response to a call attention motion tabled by Mr. R.N. Singh Deo (Swat.), she said Government was maintaining a "careful watch on CIA activities and that appropriate action will be taken whenever necessary." Mrs. Satpathy, who holds the Home portfolio, said Government had "no reports about the alleged activities of the KGB (Soviet Intelligence Agency) in Orissa." Mrs. Satpathy denied Mr. Singh Deo's allegation that she had referred to CIA activities in Orissa at a news conference some time ago "just as a political stunt and to serve as a diversionary tactic to hide the failures of the Congress Government in the State." She said there was "basis" in her statement about the CIA activities in the State. If information about the CIA activities was made public now "the process of further investigation into these activities may be hampered," she added. She said an inquiry made about alleged KGB activities revealed that there was no KGB activities in Orissa.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 13, 1923

Indians in Fiji

The Australian correspondent of "Capital" writes from Sydney: The problems of Indians in Fiji continues to be a subject of comment in the Australian Press. A. Methedist missionary (Rev. W.R. Steadman), who had just returned from the Islands, expresses the opinion that Indians should have better representation in the administration of the Colony. "There is at present an Indian member of the Legislative Council," he says, "but being a nominated member he does not really represent Indian sentiment. There should be some method of electing suitable Indians who have a sufficient command of English to take effective part in debates and contribute to the formation of policies and at any rate they should be able authoritatively to express the desire of the Indian community. There are roughly 55,000 Indians to 85,000 Fijians. There is also need for a district officer of the Government to advise and assist the Indian settlers with regard to land, finances and other matters."

From Page One

Ex-SC judge among six Governors appointed

Mr. Kataria will be the new Governor of Assam. The other BJP leaders who were nominated for governorship are Lakshman Prasad Acharya for Sikkim, C.P. Radhakrishnan for Jharkhand and Shiv Pratap Shukla for Himachal Pradesh. In Maharashtra, Mr. Koshyari has been replaced by Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais, while the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig. B.D. Mishra (retd) will replace Mr. Mathur in Ladakh. Lt. Gen. K.T. Parnaik (retd) will be the new Arunachal Pradesh Governor.

The reshuffle also saw Chhattisgarh Governor Anusuiya Uikye moving to Manipur, while the incumbent in Manipur, La Ganesan, was appointed as the Governor of Nagaland. Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan has been moved to Meghalaya while incumbent Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar will replace him in Bihar.

Following an uproar in Maharashtra over his controversial remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji and the calls for his removal by the Opposition parties, Mr. Koshyari had issued a statement in January saying that he had already expressed his desire to step down to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Officials told *The Hindu* that in Ladakh as well, the Union Home Ministry removed Mr. Mathur from the L-G position amid an agitation by civil society groups. The protesting groups sought safeguards for the Union Territory, such as inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution that provides protection to tribal-dominated areas.

4G in name only: plight of 'grey spots' in India

Such towns, which lose out in the digital divide in a less-documented way, may start getting more attention, now that the definition of "broadband", which 4G networks are typically classified under in India, has been upgraded from 512 kbps to a minimum of 2 mbps. According to data published by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from September 2022, the three main telecom providers classify the majority of their subscriber base – almost 95% – as "broadband" customers, which now means that they should be able to access Internet speeds of at least 2 mbps.

Mr. Qureshi would ideally like to get a fixed line broadband connection but the only operator in Songadh is the state-owned RailTel that would charge more than ₹4,000 to install a connection, a fee that he says he can't afford. Like him, the vast majority of Indian Internet users – over 96% – primarily use wireless connections offered by Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio.

Speeds below 2 mbps are not sufficient for video calls, streaming video and other such uses to which the better connected subscribers in cities have become accustomed. In fact, the connectivity in these cities is so much better that the condition of barely connected towns is less visible. This can be inferred from the difference between the median and mean Internet speeds that are recorded by users. The gap is yawning: December 2022 data by Ookla show that the mean wireless Internet speed in India was 108.86 mbps, while the median was just 25.29 mbps. The difference between mean and median measures is that the former shows what an average user is likely to get as an Internet speed, whereas the median speed is just the midpoint of the fastest and slowest connections. A high deviation between the two is an indicator of high inequality in the quality of access.

Fixed line broadband and public WiFi hotspots aren't faring too well either. TRAI data from November 2022 show that there are only 3.18 crore fixed line broadband subscribers in India, and only 10.8 lakh "fixed wireless" or WiFi hotspot subscribers. "A large number of rural areas, smaller towns and remote areas are not particularly lucrative to telecom operators," telecom analyst Mahesh Uppal said. "So even though they have connectivity in many of those places, they don't prioritise that connectivity."

'Indo-U.S. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to be flight-tested this year'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The flight testing of the ALUAV prototype will occur at a range in northern India as well as in the U.S.

A prototype of the Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV) developed jointly by India and the United States is likely to be flight-tested later this year, said a member of the U.S. government delegation to Aero India 2023.

Major General Julian C. Cheater, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, International Affairs, said, "There is certainly some progress with respect to the ALUAV, this project arrangement was signed last year and we are expecting to conduct flight testing as early as the fall [September-November] of 2023. The flight testing will occur at a range in northern India as well as in the U.S."

In 2021, the Indian Ministry of Defence and U.S. Department of Defense signed a Project Agreement for ALUAV, under the Joint Working Group Air Systems in the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

Bengaluru-based Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) and the Aerospace Systems Directorate at the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, along with the Indian and U.S. Air Forces, are the principal organisations for execution of the project agreement.

Major General Cheater said that ALUAV would be launched from the C130J aircraft. "We will develop sensors on the package and we expect that this particular UAV would most likely be launched from the C130J aircraft. That signifies a seven-year project arrangement. It is a long-term agreement and it also involves technology transfer that is a great step in the relationship of the two countries," Major General Cheater said.

F-35 at expo

On the likely participation of the U.S.'s F-35 stealth aircraft in the Aero India 2023, a member of the delegation said that if it did, it would be the most advanced aircraft in the airshow. The delegation also said that it would be too premature for the U.S. to offer the F-35 to India.

The head of the U.S. delegation to Aero India, Ambassador A. Elizabeth Jones, said India and the U.S. were working together in many ways to ensure a free and open, prosperous, connected, and resilient Indo-Pacific region, where democracies can thrive.

Aero India flies high with 98 participating nations

PM to open five-day event today; MoUs estimated at ₹75,000 crore expected; India to pitch indigenous military hardware to friendly countries at the Defence Ministers' conclave

Dinakar Peri
BENGALURU

Height of might: Aerobatics team 'Surya Kiran' and an IAF helicopter carrying the National Flag, during rehearsals ahead of Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru on Saturday. MURALI KUMAR K.

The 14th edition of the biennial Aero India which will see participation of 809 Indian and foreign companies spread over 35,000 sq.m is excepted to see conclusion of 251 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) estimated at ₹75,000 crore during the three business days, defence officials said.

At the Defence Ministers' conclave for which 32 foreign Defence Ministers have confirmed participation, India will make a strong pitch for indigenous military hardware.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the five-day Aero India 2023 on Monday. While the first three days (February 13-15) are business days, February 16 and 17 have been set as public days. In a first for the expo, European defence majors Airbus and Thales have announced that they would hold interactions for potential recruitment with aspiring candidates.

The aim of the event is to promote exports of air platforms with focus on the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and also attract foreign investments including on co-development and co-production, said Cdr. Achal Malhotra, Director, Defence Exhibition Organisation in the Ministry of Defence, at the curtain-raiser event on Sunday. The expo comprises a Defence Ministers' conclave; a CEOs' round table; the *Manthan* (brainstorming) start-up event; a *Bandhan* ceremony, airshows, a large exhibition; India Pavilion and a trade fair of aerospace companies.

'Showcase of prowess'

Addressing mediapersons, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Aero India 2023 will showcase the country's manufacturing prowess and the progress achieved towards realising *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*.

"A strong and self-reliant defence sector will play a pivotal role in helping India emerge as one of the top three world economies," he said.

This year's event will see the participation of 98 countries and Defence Ministers of 32 countries, Air Chiefs of 29 countries and 73 CEOs of global and Indian original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

The Defence Ministers' conclave will address aspects related to deepening cooperation for capacity building (through investments, R&D, joint venture, co-development, co-production and provisioning of defence equipment), training, space, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and maritime security to grow together.

The annual defence innovation event, *Manthan*, will bring the leading innovators, start-ups, MSMEs, incubators, academia and investors from defence and aerospace ecosystem under one roof. A series of seminars are also lined up on various themes.

Maharishi Dayanand removed evils falsely attributed to religion: Modi

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a 'Samman Patra' by Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat on the 200th birth anniversary of Dayanand Saraswati, in New Delhi on Sunday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Kicking off the two-year celebrations commemorating Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's 200th birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Arya Samaj founder removed "all evils falsely attributed to religion with the light of religion itself".

The Prime Minister was addressing a gathering at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here where he released a logo for the celebrations. He also participated in a *yagna* during the ceremony. The PM said the birth anniversary being celebrated during India's *Amrit Kaal* [lead-up to 100 years of Independence] was a "sacred inspiration". "In this era of discord, violence and instability, the path shown by Maharishi Dayanand gives hope," he added. Maharishi Dayanand was born in an era when false interpretation of the Vedas was used to belittle India and its traditions were being deformed as part of efforts to "crush the ideals, culture and roots" of the nation, Mr. Modi said.

He spoke of Maharishi Dayanand's campaigns against social ills such as discrimination and untouchability. "Evils that were falsely attributed to religion, Swami *Ji* removed them with the light of religion itself," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister said he was fortunate to have been born in the same land as Swami Dayanand in present-day Gujarat and spoke of how his ideals continued to impact his life.

Mr. Modi went on to say that the New Education Policy (NEP) had also been designed to modernise education "with a focus on Indianness" and that the country's wish to follow Swami Dayanand's teachings is reflected in the fact that people are now "confidently calling for pride in our heritage".

"Even in today's day and age, there are societies which deprive women of their right to education and respect, but it was Maharishi Dayanand who raised his voice when equal rights for women was a far-fetched idea even in western countries," Mr. Modi stated.

He said that the expansive notion of religion in India went beyond rituals and is an "entire way of life".

Central agencies gear up to strengthen framework as FATF evaluations near

Devesh K. Pandey
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

According to the FATF, the possible onsite assessment of India is due in November 2023

Government agencies have expedited efforts to further strengthen the anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing frameworks in view of the coming Financial Action Task Force (FATF) assessment of India in the fourth round of mutual evaluations expected later this year.

It is learnt that the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) is organising meetings with representatives from sectors such as real estate to ensure compliance with KYC (Know Your Client) norms.

As mandated by law, all the other agencies have been referring cases involving the money laundering angle to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for further action.

The government has also organised a series of conferences focused on combating terror financing, including the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee special conference in India; the 'No Money For Terror' conference where India proposed to host its headquarters; and the UNSC briefing on challenges to the global counter-terrorism regime at the UN in New York.

According to the FATF, the possible onsite assessment is due in November 2023, whereas the findings may be discussed at its June 2024 plenary. The mutual evaluation of India was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aspects looked at

The scope of mutual evaluations involves two aspects: technical compliance, for assessment of whether the necessary legal framework and other associated measures are in force and whether the supporting institutional framework is in place; and effectiveness, to determine if the systems are working towards achieving the defined set of outcomes.

"On the legal front, we have one of the most stringent anti-money laundering/terrorist financing laws in the world. Besides, the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act and the Black Money Act have been brought in," an official of a probe agency said.

In its 2010 review, the FATF had highlighted two shortcomings in the Indian legal framework. While the confiscation of assets was based on convictions, which was subsequently addressed by amending Section 8(5) of the PMLA, money laundering was not a standalone offence – it was dependent on scheduled/predicated offences under other penal laws.

Pointing out that money laundering was a conceptual and conduct-based offence evolved by the civil law legal system countries, an official said in India "offence" had been defined as an act or omission made punishable by law for the time being in force. It does not explicitly include conduct-based crime.

On the aspect of "effectiveness", apart from the instances of attachment/seizure/freezing of assets, conviction rate in the money laundering/terror financing cases would be crucial to demonstrate effective implementation.

'India must plan for wheat export as record yield expected'

No trace of any disease or locust, and despite late monsoon in many parts, soil moisture enabled farmers to plant on time this season, says Professor Arun Kumar Joshi; farmers expect the price to be good with situation in Ukraine still continuing; last year, market price was higher than MSP

INTERVIEW

Arun Kumar Joshi

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Arun Kumar Joshi, managing director, Borlaug Institute of South Asia and the Country Representative of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) has spent about four decades in researching and developing high-yielding and climate-resilient wheat varieties. With unexpected changes in the global climatic conditions and trade systems, wheat production in India has been gaining considerable international attention. Of late, due to the situation in Ukraine, there has been an increased demand for wheat from India. Professor Joshi talked to *The Hindu* about the current challenges in the cultivation of wheat in the background of a decrease in production, in the last rabi season. Excerpts:

Last year, we faced a decrease in wheat production. What is the feedback you are getting from the fields in this rabi season?

The feedback so far I am getting is that there will be record production of wheat. The reason is that the area of cultivation has increased. According to government estimates, wheat has been sown in more than 34 million hectares so far in this rabi season. There is confidence among farmers that they can take a good harvest and there will be a market available for it.

This is a good year. Monsoon came late in many parts, but there was enough soil moisture. Farmers were able to plant on time. A significant number of farmers in Central India, Northwest India, Eastern sector also are shifting to planting the crop to one week to 10 days early. Seeing that the situation in Ukraine is still continuing, farmers expect that the price will be good. The government has managed input supply nicely. Irrigation systems have also improved. There will be record production, and India should plan for another export of wheat.

So do you think that by exporting, farmers here will get the benefit of price from international markets?

Last year, the market price was higher than the Minimum Support Price. This year also, people believe that the market prices will be around MSP. We cannot export wheat from the Karnal Bunt (a fungal disease) infected areas such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. So wheat from Central India is exported and the country should plan for it.

Early summer was a villain last year. How can the farmer be prepared to face such unexpected climate changes?

The earlier you plant, the better you harvest. Farmers should go for mechanisation. If your crop is ready today, arrange all the mechanisation systems in advance, immediately harvest and store.

Can we expect a repeat of it this time? Last time locusts had also damaged the crops.

So far, the weather has been nice in North India. The most important is night temperature. Nights are cooler than days. Soil health is also important. Humidity was low. No diseases so far. So far the global surveys are not indicating that locusts are coming.

‘EU cannot help prop up a repressive regime in Kabul’

The European Union’s Special Envoy for Afghanistan signals a possible shift in dealing with the Taliban, but does not endorse alternative opposition groups that are seeking to put up armed resistance; he says the EU wants to have dialogue with Afghan entrepreneurs, women and the Taliban; on denial of visas for Afghan students in India, he says he wants to have a better overview of the situation

INTERVIEW

Tomas Niklasson

Suhasini Haidar

India and the European Union (EU) need to speak up together on upholding of human rights in Afghanistan, says the European Union’s Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Tomas Niklasson, who visited Delhi for consultations on the way forward. Mr. Niklasson says Taliban’s increased restrictions on women and the ban on girls’ education is of particular concern for the EU. Such restrictions may lead the EU to change its policy on engagement and assistance to the regime in Kabul, he says.

Has the Taliban’s ban on women’s education and rights changed the view of the international community towards engaging the regime?

We could have managed to build a more constructive relationship with Taliban, or helped stabilise the Afghan economy, if we would have seen any progress being made towards development and upholding of human rights.

If we had seen for example, secondary schools opening for girls, or Taliban taking positive steps towards opening a political dialogue on specific issues, taken a less harsh position on journalists, been more successful in implementing their so-called amnesty for officials from the previous government, if they had taken steps towards either recognising the Constitution in place, or proposing a new one, and implementing rule of law.

But the fact is, they have not, and we cannot be seen as helping to prop up an increasingly repressive regime. There will be a meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Brussels on February 20, the first occasion when our Ministers will talk about Afghanistan substantially in this format since September 2021.

Where do you see India’s role today — where it has a technical mission in Kabul, and is talking to the Taliban?

India has taken a similar position as the EU, by establishing limited presence in Kabul and saying we don’t want to close doors on engaging the regime, while not recognising it, of course. And we don’t want to sit back in Brussels and Delhi and tell ourselves that we don’t want to close doors, we actually want to be there to have a dialogue with Afghan entrepreneurs, with journalists, with civil society, with Afghan women, with Taliban, as needed. Because if we are not there, others remain.

During your visit here, is there something you are asking India to do?

India and the EU need to stand up for the common principles, common values that we share about human rights and democracy, inclusive government, etc. The European Union is often quite outspoken in public diplomacy and making statements to explain our positions and our expectations. India takes a different approach, I think, when it comes to public diplomacy. But it is essential we work together to defend our shared principles and values.

India has also denied most visas for Afghans, including students and patients since August 2021. Are you discussing that?

I would like to understand better what the Indian position is, and I would like to get the facts right as well. I don’t come with an agenda. These are issues that people have mentioned to me before I was coming here. And these are also issues that some of our Indian counterparts have raised with me, but as I said, my first point would be to have a better overview of the situation.

When it comes to alternatives to the Taliban, what is the EU’s position on supporting the political opposition, or armed groups like Ahmed Massoud-led NRF?

For the EU, supporting armed groups, or military interventions is simply not on the table. I think any power considering doing so should consider the many risks: supporting the wrong people, or the armed resistance not succeeding, or tainting any attempted armed resistance by making them being seen as supported from abroad. And if one actor would extend financial or political support to any specific group, other countries would most likely support other groups, and we would risk seeing again, a spiral of violence inside the country.

We are happy to come to listen, we are happy to engage in a dialogue, as long as armed resistance is not on the table. But we also see the risk that if any group were to be seen as set up, facilitated, pushed by us, it would be counter-productive.

In the Doha agreement, the Taliban had committed to not allowing foreign terror groups in Afghanistan. Is that promise being kept at all?

Last summer, the leader of Al-Qaeda was killed in a building owned or controlled by senior Taliban members. That is a clear indication that the Taliban have not delivered on one of their commitments in the Doha agreement. We see an increasing number of attacks claimed by ISIS-KP against diplomatic missions, and their numbers are rising too. Each neighbouring country has at least one group they are worried about — IMU for Uzbekistan, ETIM for China, TTP for Pakistan and LeT and JeM for India, and none of the neighbours seems convinced that the Taliban are fully capable or fully willing to guarantee their security.

Perhaps even though they have issues with each other, neighbouring countries will seek collective solutions, at least in terms of intelligence sharing among themselves.

(Full interview is at bit.ly/euspecialenvoy)

Four HCs get Chief Justices, but two will retire in February

Justice Jaswant Singh will have 10 days as Chief Justice of Tripura HC and Justice Gokani will head the Gujarat court for less than two weeks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Law Ministry on Sunday notified the appointment of Chief Justices for four High Courts. Two of them are set to retire later this month.

Justice Sandeep Mehta

Justice Sandeep Mehta, a judge in the Rajasthan High Court, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, judge of the Gauhati High Court, has been made Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Justice Sonia Giridhar Gokani, who had already been named the officiating Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court, being the senior-most judge of the court, has now been officially named as the Chief Justice.

Across 25 High Courts, Justice Sabina is currently the only woman heading a High Court, as she is officiating as the Acting Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. Once she takes oath, Justice Gokani, who is drawn from the Gujarat Judicial Services, will join her as a second woman heading a High Court right now. But not for long — Justice Gokani will demit office on February 25, upon attaining the age of 62. While SC judges retire at 65, HC judges demit office on reaching 62.

“Besides being the senior-most judge, the appointment of Justice Gokani as Chief Justice will bring a sense of inclusion and facilitate a representation for judges drawn from the services in the office of Chief Justice,” the Supreme Court Collegium had said last week while recommending her name.

The collegium had asked the government to “immediately” appoint her as the Chief Justice following the elevation of Justice Aravind Kumar, who was serving as the Chief Justice of Gujarat HC, to the Supreme Court.

Justice Jaswant Singh, senior-most judge of the Orissa High Court, was appointed Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court. He is due to retire on February 22, giving him barely 10 days in office.

The office of the Chief Justice in the Tripura High Court has been vacant for some time, following the retirement of Justice Indrajit Mahanty.

Controversy erupts over Jamiat chief’s remark at conclave

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind’s president Arshad Madani stirred up a controversy on Sunday with a speech which seemed to equate Om, Allah and God, prompting some religious leaders to walk off the stage on the final day of the organisation’s three-day conclave. “What Hindus worship as Om, Muslims worship as Allah,” Mr. Madani said. “Whom we call Adam, Hindus call Manu. Adam’s progeny is called *aadmi* (mankind). Manu’s progeny is *manushya* (mankind). When there was no Ram, Brahma, Shiva, whom did Manu worship? Few people tell us, they used to worship Om who had no image. I say, we call Om as Allah, those who speak Persian say Khuda, the English-speaking call God,” he added.

Jain religious leader Acharya Lokesh Muni left the stage, stating, “We only agree with living in harmony, but all the story regarding Om, Allah, and Manu is all rubbish.”

Mr. Madani’s presidential address had an audience of over two lakh people. “For 1,400 years Hindus and Muslims have lived here together as brothers. We have never forced anybody to convert to Islam. We believe religion is a personal matter and acceptance comes from the heart,” said the Jamiat president. “Since Independence we had not heard of *Ghar Wapasi* [referring to reconversion to Hinduism] till the BJP assumed power,” he added.

Later, the Muslim body issued a statement, expressing disappointment with the judiciary and raising concerns about rising increasing communalism in the country.

Meanwhile, hitting out at Mr. Madani, the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) said his remarks on “Om and Allah” have exposed his real mindset. “Was it a ‘Sadbhavna Sammelan’ or a gathering of Jamiat’s poisonous group?” VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal asked, criticising Mr. Madani for trying to assert “his supremacy and that of Islam”.

(With PTI inputs)

Justice Nazeer was in the thick of most momentous decisions of the top court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, retired Supreme Court judge appointed Governor of Andhra Pradesh, once said “he has lived a dream”.

The man whose face, Supreme Court lawyers say, breaks into a “million dollar smile” before dismissing their cases, started his life’s journey in singularly tough circumstances in Karnataka’s Beluvai and later in Mangaluru.

Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (retd)

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud narrated how a young Nazeer worked in his uncle’s farms to make ends meet. During those bleak early years, he would wait for fish which washed up ashore on the Panambur beach to supplement his family’s income. Justice Nazeer was born in 1958 into a family of several brothers and a sister. His father died early. He has often spoken about the sacrifices of his mother for the family. Justice Nazeer graduated in commerce and obtained a law degree from SDM Law College in Mangaluru. He was the family’s first lawyer. He moved to Bengaluru, overcame his natural shyness and “difficulty with the English language” to set up a substantial practice in tax and civil laws.

‘Duck syndrome’

He compared his early years as a lawyer to the “duck syndrome”. “I was like a duck who is seen gliding smoothly on the water, but is actually paddling furiously under the water just to keep itself afloat,” Justice Nazeer said at his farewell from the Supreme Court.

Justice Nazeer was elevated to the Karnataka High Court Bench at the early age of 45, largely owing to the recommendation of Justice R.V. Raveendran. He spent 14 years at the High Court before his appointment as a Supreme Court judge on the proposal of a Collegium in 2017.

Justice Nazeer was not even a Chief Justice of a High Court when he was elevated to the Supreme Court.

His tenure gave him opportunities, one after other, to be in the thick of almost every momentous decision of the top court.

He supported Chief Justice Khehar’s minority view to uphold triple talaq while the majority on the Constitution Bench struck it down.

He was part of the nine-judge Bench which upheld privacy as a fundamental right.

Then came his role as the sole judge from the minority community on the Ayodhya Bench, which gave the title of the disputed Ramjanmabhoomi to Hindus. Senior advocate Vikas Singh said the unanimous Ayodhya judgment showed Justice Nazeer had “placed the nation first, him as a judge second and him as an individual last”.

Trinamool is ‘C team’ of BJP in Meghalaya, Tripura: Congress

Rahul Karmakar
TURA

The NPP, UDP and BJP cobbled up an alliance after the election in 2018 and formed government

The Congress has sniffed collusion between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Trinamool Congress to keep the grand old party out of power in the northeastern States.

All India Congress Committee general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, “The Trinamool Congress was as much a “puppet” of the “puppet masters” in Delhi as the National People’s Party (NPP) and the United Democratic Party (UDP) are.” The NPP and UDP are allies of the BJP in the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government. However, the three parties are contesting the February 27 Assembly elections against each other.

“The NPP is the ‘A team’, the UDP the ‘B team’ and the Trinamool the ‘C team’ of the BJP,” Mr. Ramesh said in Shillong.

The NPP, UDP and BJP prevented the Congress from forming the government in 2018 by cobbling up an alliance. The Congress, which was the single-largest party with 21 seats, lost four MLAs in three years due to death.

The Congress had made a similar accusation against the Trinamool in Tripura. The Trinamool is contesting on 28 of the 60 seats, while the Congress on 13 seats after a seat-sharing agreement with the Left Front.

Congress criticises Centre over expunging its leaders’ speeches, MP’s suspension

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Renewing the attack on the BJP government and the presiding officers of both Houses of Parliament, the Congress on Sunday said that recent decisions of expunging portions of speeches by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former president Rahul Gandhi are brazenly undemocratic as also the suspension of Rajya Sabha MP Rajani Patil without following the due procedure.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi

At a press conference in Delhi, party’s national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi accused the government of moving towards establishing “an authoritarian dominance in Parliament by terrifying, terrorising, tormenting and tyrannising the Opposition”.

No unparliamentary words were used, he said, in both Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi’s speeches.

“It is amusing and supremely ironical to note that expunged portions even include questions asked,” he noted. If there is no freedom of speech within Parliament, then it would be difficult to call ourselves democracy, he stressed. “The Speaker in Lok Sabha and Chairperson in Rajya Sabha are constitutional office holders and the custodians and defenders of freedom of speech inside the Houses which is a fundamental pillar of our democracy, especially within Parliament. Without their robust shield, the spirit of healthy parliamentary discussion and debate will perish,” he added.

Ms. Patil’s suspension for allegedly recording a view of the House proceedings during the February 9 address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Rajya Sabha does not follow the duly laid down procedures, the Congress spokesperson said.

The Rule 257 of the Upper House Rules invoked for this was ex-*facie*, textually inapplicable.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through e-procurement portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two cover system from eligible tenderers for the following works.

Name of the Work	Amount put to tender / EMD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore- 560 009.	
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)TE/ACE(Design)/TA/AE/1736/2022-23 Date: 09.02.2023	
Work of Demolition of existing OHT at Vidyaranyapura and Construction of 3 Nos. of Service Station Building at Vidyaranyapura Main Road, Singapura & Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore.	Rs. 203.38 Lakhs / Rs. 3.60 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)TE/ACE(Design)/TA/AE/1737/2022-23 Date: 09.02.2023	
Work of Demolition of existing OHT at Jakkuru and Construction of 3 Nos. of Service Station Building at Jakkuru, R.T. Nagar & Bhuvaneshwari Layout - Coffee Board Layout GLR Premises, Bangalore.	Rs. 203.38 Lakhs / Rs. 3.60 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)TE/ACE(Design)/TA/AE/1738/2022-23 Date: 09.02.2023	
Work of Demolition of existing OHT at Canara Bank Layout and Construction of 2 Nos. of Service Station Building at Canara Bank Layout and Tatanagar, Bangalore.	Rs. 146.01 Lakhs / Rs. 2.59 Lakhs

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on: **27.02.2023 upto 16:00 Hrs.** The Technical bids will be opened on: **01.03.2023 at 12:00 Noon.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance).

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore- 560 009.	
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-N-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/582/2022-23 Date: 10.02.2023	
Work of Providing and Laying of 600mm dia RCC NP-3/DWC SN-8 Class sewer line from Mallathahalli Lake Road, Kengunte to MP Sports Club Road, NGEF Layout, Jnanajyothinagar, Bangalore.	Rs. 149.47 Lakhs / Rs. 2.65 Lakhs

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on: **14.03.2023 upto 17:30 Hrs.** The Technical bids will be opened on: **16.03.2023 at 16:00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (WWM-West).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/4626/2022-23

INBRIEF

ABVP cadre attack students on Utkal University campus

ABVP cadre on Sunday attacked students and intellectuals who gathered for a seminar on the Constitution at Utkal University in Bhubaneswar. As the seminar – organised by the Odisha-based Citizen's Forum in association with the Van Muhil Trust, Tamil Nadu – was under way, some people questioned the organisers if they had permission to hold the meeting. Then, they reportedly tore off the banner and attacked the organisers. Two persons sustained injuries in the attack. While a police complaint has been lodged against the ABVP members, the latter filed a case against the organisers for allegedly holding the meeting without permission.

'Development at a standstill in Haryana under the BJP rule'

Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, on Sunday hit out at the BJP-Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) government in Haryana, saying that development has come to a standstill even as the State has been pushed into a debt trap. Mr. Hooda was addressing a State-level representatives' conference of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) in Gurugram. "The Congress fulfils each and every promise it makes. But the BJP-JJP government has made Haryana number one in unemployment, corruption, crime and inflation," he said.

'Only double-engine govt. will ensure Rajasthan's progress'

Prime Minister Modi promises prosperity and opportunities for the State, while addressing a BJP rally in Dausa district after inaugurating the first phase of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Promise of growth: Vehicles move on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway ahead of its Phase-1 inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Dausa district on Sunday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said only a "double-engine government" would ensure Rajasthan's progress as the ruling Congress lacked vision and was not capable of implementing development plans and budgetary announcements on the ground. Mr. Modi said the people could get rid of uncertainty and speed up development by bringing the BJP to power.

Mr. Modi addressed a rally organised by the Opposition BJP in Dausa district's Dhanawar village soon after inaugurating the first phase of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway at a ceremony held a few kilometres away. The Prime Minister said the Congress government had failed on all fronts, while reports on misrule and the deteriorating law and order situation were increasing.

"For several decades, some people insulted Rajasthan by calling it a '*Bimaru*' State. But the BJP is making it one of the strongest States in the country," he said. The Centre's expenditure on building infrastructure would benefit Rajasthan and connect it with major centres of growth, bringing prosperity and new opportunities to its people, he added.

Mr. Modi accused the State government of not carrying out development works in border villages, saying the Congress was scared that the enemy would cross the border and use the roads. The Congress had underestimated the valour of India's Armed Forces, he said.

Election prospects

This was Mr. Modi's second visit to Rajasthan in a fortnight, after his trip to Bhilwara district on January 28 for an event to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Devnarayan, a deity revered by Gujjars. Dausa district in eastern Rajasthan has a significant presence of Gujjar and Meena communities, both of which had voted overwhelmingly for the Congress in the 2018 Assembly election.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra also crossed eastern Rajasthan before entering neighbouring Haryana. The BJP expects that Mr. Modi's visit and the inauguration of the big infrastructure project would improve the party's prospects in the region ahead of the Assembly election, which is due in December.

Ambedkar's letter of resignation not available on records

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The resignation letter of Independent India's first Law Minister, B.R. Ambedkar, is missing from official records. The President's Secretariat has confirmed in writing to the Central Information Commission (CIC) that despite extensive search in the Constitutional Affairs Section, the document could not be located.

The case arises out of a petition filed under the Right to Information Act, 2005, seeking a certified copy of Dr. Ambedkar's resignation letter, which was accepted by the then President. The petitioner, who wrote to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Cabinet Secretariat and the President's Secretariat, also sought the reasons recorded by the Minister.

After the PMO transferred the petition to the Cabinet Secretariat, the latter said that the President accepted the resignation with effect from October 11, 1951. "No other information on this point is available with this office," its Chief Public Information Officer (CPIO), said.

With no further information forthcoming from the CPIOs of the three top offices, the petitioner Prashant filed an appeal before the CIC. He argued the letter ought to exist in the records of the PMO or the President's Secretariat as these two offices were the authorities to handle Ministers' resignation.

While the CPIO, PMO, stated the petition was transferred to the President's Secretariat as acceptance or rejection of resignation letters of Ministers fell within the constitutional functioning of the President, the CPIO, Cabinet Secretariat, said his office only provided secretarial assistance.

Passing orders in the case on February 10, Chief Information Commissioner Y.K. Sinha said only such information that was available with a public authority can be provided and no direction could be issued for creation of any record.

Incidentally, former President Ram Nath Kovind, when he was Governor of Bihar in 2016, had said at a seminar that Dr. Ambedkar resigned when the government refused to back the reformist Hindu Code Bill.

In eternal city, a river comes to die a slow death under pollution, neglect

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Major pollutant: The NGT-constituted panel said the pollution in the Assi is more due to sewage than effluents. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Assi, the river that fringes Varanasi on the south and gives the city a part of its name, is dying a slow death. This minor tributary of the Ganga has been struggling for a while now, with rampant encroachments and administrative negligence.

As the Lok Sabha constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the main host of the forthcoming G-20 meetings in Uttar Pradesh, Varanasi has its strategic importance rising. Yet, there are now more than two dozen *nalas* (sewers) carrying the city's waste into the Assi.

At the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the governments of Uttar Pradesh and Denmark, committing to a ₹1,000-crore investment to clean up the Ganga and its tributaries. A smart river laboratory will be set up, but it is unclear how and when these plans will materialise.

Encroachments abound

Amid the rapid decay of the river and its uncertain future, a group of Varanasi residents have been working to preserve the city's natural heritage under the banner of the Assi Nadi Mukti Abhiyan that began in 2012. The primary aim of the group is to get encroachments removed, so that the river can return to its original form.

"The mapping of the Assi was carried out and details appeared in the Varanasi Gazetteer of 1866. It notes a width of 50 metres at the centre. We want that to be revived," Kapindra Tiwari, convener of the Abhiyan, says. Now, the river is only about 30 metres at its widest point.

The mapping of the river was started when the Samajwadi Party was in power in the State, but no major progress was made in encroachment removal.

"We have high hopes from the Yogi Adityanath government. In 2017-18, encroachments on the river were removed. We were successful in making sure that an area of 25,000 square metres could be retrieved, but things came to standstill later," Mr. Tiwari says.

The matter of revitalising the Assi went to the National Green Tribunal, which constituted a committee to submit an action plan for restoration and rejuvenation. The report, submitted in mid-2021, suggested that a survey be conducted to understand the existing levels of encroachment in the catchments. The committee said the pollution in the river was more due to sewage rather than industrial effluents, and suggested pollution mapping to identify the sources of pollution.

MGNREGS suffers as Centre's dues to 14 States amount to ₹6,157 crore

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Fight for pay: MGNREGS workers recently staged a protest in Erode, Tamil Nadu, seeking payment of pending wages. FILE PHOTO

With just little over a month left for the current financial year to end, the Union government owes ₹6,157 crore to 14 States under the material component head of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) that pays for wages and construction material for skilled labourers.

Replying to a question by CPI(M) MP John Brittas, Union Minister Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti told the Rajya Sabha last Wednesday that the figure amounts to the liability till February 3.

Eight of the 14 States are ruled by parties other than the BJP. The dues include nearly ₹2,700 crore that the Centre owes to West Bengal. The government has reportedly stopped payment for over a year to the State, citing violation of rules and widespread corruption. The dues to Andhra Pradesh amount to ₹836 crore and to Karnataka ₹638 crore.

The delay in supply of materials for the works has a domino impact on the programme, breaking the supply chain. Vendors are reluctant to supply the material due to deferred payments. This, in turn, makes it difficult to open new worksites. The supervisors or mates, majority of whom are women, across the country face an inordinate delay in their wages, since their pay is drawn from this component as well.

The Peoples' Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG), in a recent statement, said that over the past five years, 21% of the Budget has gone into clearing the arrears of previous years. As per their deductions, the arrears amounted to roughly 25% of the outlay in the financial year 2022-23.

In the latest Budget, only ₹60,000 crore has been allotted to the programme, which is only enough to provide 20 days of guaranteed work as opposed to the 100-day guarantee, MGNREGS activist Nikhil Dey says. "₹1.24 crore was required just to give assured 40 days of work to all those active job cardholders this year. As of today, there are pending liabilities of almost ₹17,000 crore. The amount given in the Budget means in real terms, only about 20 days of guarantee for those who go for work as of today," he explains.

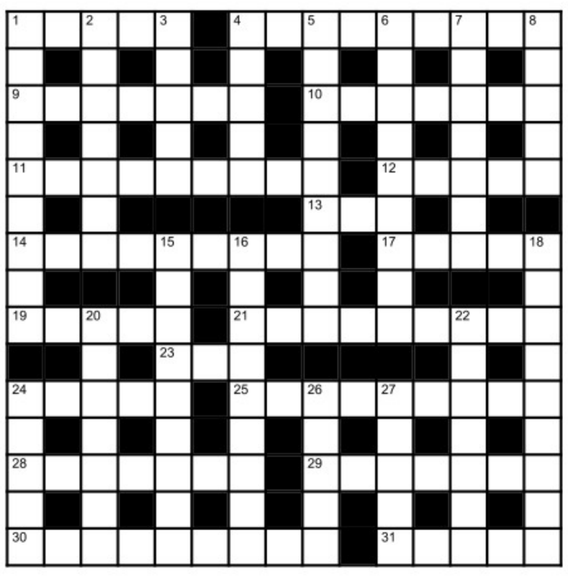
With budget cuts and the added burden from January 1 of recording attendance on a mobile application, National Mobile Monitoring System, the NREGA Sangarsh Morcha – a consortium of activists across the country working in this field – has announced a protest march in Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Monday.

TH CROSSWORD + 13787

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Talk about final fall of humans (5)
4 Advocates are heroes! (9)
9 Can't use 'mental' for mental (7)
10 Capital of Lanka or basically organised mob (7)
11 An ill-tempered woman or girl makin' reels (9)
12 Discussion about Union's local revenue jurisdiction (5)
13 Would you push at last for an answer to a stupid question? (3)
14 A right man in a champion team (9)
17 Some red wine for Moses (5)
19 Excellent meal without slightest of pepper (5)
21 Love not! Love not! She's mad! Opt out! Immediately! (2,3,4)
23 Hellenic ornithologists returned holding a big bird (3)
24 Welcome torment with love (5)
25 Sicilia regularly follows Vatican City Prior and Pope (5,3)
28 Highs and lows? More about them! (7)
29 Kind of a dry day measure (7)
30 One pays to see pet actor's plays (9)
31 Small point for attaching cable to computer display (5)

Down

1 Wife at home for example besides sweetheart? Something needed to toast! (9)
2 Breaking down? Time to grin perhaps! (7)
3 Church set aside money for crisis situation (5)
4 Dismissing a bold king's record-keeper (5)
5 Insect carries a small cold object on the way up (9)
6 'Belief in gods' is mankind basically escaping to occasionally enter kind of man-made protective cover (9)
7 Resistance to current legislation? (4,3)
8 Start small joint (5)
15 Ran out to join fight set off by the most illiberal (9)
16 UN can toil actively for a disease preventive measure (9)
18 Men turn it on for support (9)
20 Subtle to the regularly seen range of colours (7)
22 Friend with money? Negative! (7)
24 Reportedly mends shoes (5)
26 He pays to get particular English ruby (5)
27 Boy gets title of man, returns, rules! (5)

SUDOKU

				9			1	4
					4		8	3
5				8				
3			4		7	2		
1	2						5	8
		5	2		8			7
				3				2
4	8		6					
7	3			4				

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	Z	A		B		C		S		E		L		
P	E	A	R		U	B	O	A	T		N	A	I	L
	R		S		D		L		I		A		A	
O	O	L	O	N	G		O	N	C	E	M	O	R	E
			N		E		G		K		E			
C	H	R	I	S	T	E	N		O	N	L	I	N	E
	A		S				E		U				O	
M	U	S	T	A	N	G		A	T	R	O	P	H	Y
	S				E		G				U		I	
B	A	N	G	L	E			L	E	V	I	T	A	T	E
			A		D		A		E		H			
G	O	N	D	O	L	A	S		R	I	O	T	E	D
	M		G		E		S		I		U		C	
F	A	R	E		S	H	E	L	F		S	O	H	O
	N		T		S		S		Y		E		O	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	8	6	1	4	5	3	9
9	1	6	5	3	2	8	4	7
4	3	5	7	8	9	1	2	6
1	5	9	2	7	8	4	6	3
3	7	4	1	9	6	2	5	8
8	6	2	4	5	3	9	7	1
5	8	7	3	4	1	6	9	2
6	4	1	9	2	7	3	8	5
2	9	3	8	6	5	7	1	4

FAITH

The three qualities

The three qualities Sattva, Rajas and Tamas are inherent in us. They are also called as matters that matter in our life to decide who we want to be. It is said Sattva predominates in celestials, while Rajas in human beings and Tamas in Rakshasas/demons. They are malignants and incendiaries. Satva refers to possessing good qualities, Rajas denotes dusty mind and Tamas sheer ignorance. Each one outweighing the other two in predominance.

It is sattva that helps us undertake more of Godly works. We can tilt more towards Sattva in three ways – by eating Satvik food which enhances satvik qualities in us; by listening to the advice and guidance of elders and Acharyas who have rich experience; by getting up early in the morning every day.

Smrithis guide in our day-to-day living and it dins into us, the necessity of rising up early. In early hours the degree of Sattva will be high and so we can be benefited. It is during the early hours that darkness sets disappearing and natural light starts beaming.

It is believed that during this time the darkness from our mind is dispelled and the light of knowledge begins to glow. By just a mere folding of our two hands before God, He becomes melted, said Sri Parasara Badri Bhattar in a discourse.

An elephant may not listen to its mahout sometimes, but God who need not listen to anyone can be tethered easily with our devotion. For our sins committed, even if we prostrate 10,000 times, we cannot cleanse. But due to His divine mercy, by just prostrating once at His feet which is softer than lotus, we can derive His blessings.

ASKUS

Vidya Bala

Q I am a freelancer. My income comes in spurts. I have a small corpus in mutual funds. I was thinking of low-risk options that are also liquid. I have heard about treasury bills. What is the minimum investment and how does one invest in these? I'd like to invest the sporadic income in such instruments so that they grow more than in savings or FD, are not exposed to the market and are liquid enough to access them easily. Are there more such options?
SWAPNA

A Yes. Treasury bills are issued by the RBI and can be invested free of cost by opening an account with RBI Retail Direct. This is the link: https://rbiretaildirect.org.in/#/
You will also find FAQs in the above link explaining each of the products available through this site. Treasury bills or T-bills, as they are called, are short-term instruments issued by the government - for tenures of 91, 182 or 364 days. They mostly have a minimum investment of ₹10,000. They do not pay interest directly.
Instead they are issued at a discount and redeemed at face value of maturity. The difference is equivalent to the interest you will earn. Since these are auctions and issued sporadically by the government, they come in spurts and open for short periods. It is best used as a supplement to FD. Also, it is not liquid. You may not be able to sell it in the secondary market and cannot expect to gain more than FDs as they are short-term instruments. If you wish to earn more, it is best that you use short-duration debt funds for superior returns and liquidity.

Q I am a salaried employee earning ₹1 lakh a month and investing ₹35,000 monthly in mutual fund SIPs for the last 2 years with current value ₹7 lakh. My long-term goal is in the next 10 years, I would like to buy an individual house. Please let me know where all I can invest to fulfil my goal. Is it okay to invest ₹50,000 or ₹60,000 per month in SIP?
VIJAY KUMAR

A Much would depend on what will be the cost of the independent house that you plan to construct or buy. And that would again depend on the size of such property. ₹60,000 per month over the next 10 years, at a return of 11% IRR (which is the moderate return to expect with some asset allocation to debt) will give you about ₹1.3 crore.
Add another ₹20 lakh (value of present ₹7 lakh) and roughly it could be about ₹1.5 crore. You need to estimate how much the property would cost in 10 years assuming say a 3-4% inflation in prices of land/property and see how much is needed to save or take a partial loan.

Q I am and working. I can save about ₹20,000 a month and have an additional ongoing SIP of ₹7,000 a month. I will also be able to generate about ₹25,000-₹30,000 rental monthly income in the upcoming months. I have some investments in the stock market and mutual funds. I don't have any liabilities. My current objective is to accumulate my first ₹1 crore as soon as possible. What should be my strategy and how much time will it require to build that corpus?
SIDDHARTHA SHEKAR

A With ₹27,000 per month of savings in SIP and an assumption of 12% XIRR, you will accumulate ₹1 crore in about 13.5 years. To do this in 10 years, you will need to save about ₹45,000 a month. Of course if your returns are higher, you will be able to reach your goal early.
Consider 75% in equity funds and 25% in debt. For equity, if you do not want to actively manage, simply go with index funds based on Nifty 50, Nifty 500, Nifty Midcap 150 and add an international index fund like the Nasdaq 100 or S&P 500.
In debt, have a short-duration fund and a corporate bond fund. Instead of having an open-ended time frame, set the time frame so that you will be motivated to save accordingly.
(The writer is co-founder of Primeinvestor.in)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Prepare for company/ conglomerate risk

Investors could be caught off-guard. Many a time, an investor does not even get the opportunity to liquidate or manoeuvre the portfolio

INVESTMENT RISK

Gaurav Mashruwala

On October 24, 2016, I was at the recording of a show at a TV studio when breaking news was flashed across the screen – "Mr. Cyrus Mistry removed as Chairman [at Tata Sons]."

Later, in the evening, there was another live show I had to do but that was cancelled. "We are going to discuss the repercussions of the removal of Mr. Cyrus Mistry," the producer of the show informed me over the phone.

That was really a 'big story' then. Here, I will be falling short of my duty if prayers to Mr. Mistry, who passed away recently in a tragic car accident, are not offered.

We also witnessed a rift between Mr. Vishal Sikka, Chief Executive Officer of Infosys Ltd. and other founder-members of the company sometime back.

In the first instance, the stock prices of several companies of the Tata Group took a beating. In the second instance, there was turbulence in the market value of Infosys.

These are not stray incidents. In the past, the impact of a rift between the

> All investments are subject to some kind of risk or the other. If there was no risk, then why would there be any returns?

Ambani brothers affected the confidence of shareholders.

The above are examples of company/conglomerate risk. Kindly note that neither I, nor this publication is against any of the companies or conglomerates. The above examples are merely used to support the title and topic of discussion.

Event risks

To some extent, they can be categorised as event risks. However, here the event is triggered by an internal action which is consciously taken within an organisation; it is not the outcome of any external changes/acts.

A well-governed, smooth functioning company or a business group can also be subject to such risks. In such situations, investors suffer not because of changes in government policies, economic cycles, an act of god, obsolescence or even poor functioning of the company but purely because of differences

> Usually, company/conglomerate risk could be brewing within the management for some time but it surfaces suddenly

within the management.

Court ruling

Sometimes a judicial ruling or a court order or a certain act of government, could affect the stock prices of a particular company. For instance, Bharti Airtel Ltd.'s African venture suffered heavily due to certain decisions by the governments of a few African countries, a few years ago.

Many a time we hear from investors that a particular scrip is gold.

The underlying meaning of that phrase is that it is very safe to invest in that scrip. In fact, we also hear investors saying after investing in those companies, "We should forget about it." What they mean is for the long term, this scrip will keep performing well. It is a sound and stable investment.

'Carry risk'

As investors, we should never 'forget' about our investments. We invest our hard earned money. Also, as I have been stating time and again in this series, no investment is safe and risk-free. All investments are subject to some kind of risk or the other.

If there was no risk then why would there be any returns? Company/conglomerate risk is a risk which only impacts a particular company/conglomerate.

Under normal circumstances, the occurrence of that risk has nothing to do with market conditions, internal functioning, accounting policies, customer behaviour or attitude, labour unrest, etc.

Over the years, the causes of this risk will keep changing and modifying.

In current times, mergers, acquisitions, demergers of units, stock split, buyback etc. can impact investment.

Many of them may be in public domain, however, it may impact a well balanced portfolio.

Usually, company/conglomerate risk could be brewing within the management for some time but it surfaces suddenly. Investors could be caught off-guard. Many a time, an investor does not even get the opportunity to liquidate or manoeuvre the portfolio.

((The writer is a financial planner and author of Yogic Wealth)

Ok, so now what?

COVERNOTE

Suitability, necessity and objective must drive the need to buy an insurance policy. Buying a plan merely for tax breaks can prove counterproductive as one can purchase unsuitable policies

K. Nitya Kalyani

We have repeatedly said in Cover Note that tax breaks are a poor basis for insurance purchase. It makes us buy unnecessary or unsuitable policies. If you have that rare clarity in personal financial decisions, you will treat it as icing on the cake.

On the other side of the equation, it is a crutch that is counterproductive to the process of selling insurance and will cause pain when removed.

New tax regime

Dismantling tax incentives to simplify taxation led to the option of a new tax regime in Budget 2020. Budget 2023 has it much more attractive, indicating that the old tax regime may fade out.

There is no doubt that this is going to cause a great deal of pain in the insurance industry and in insurance sales. While others debate pros and cons, let us see how we should approach buying insurance with better application of the mind and without the distraction of incentives.

Here are three factors to consider:

Suitability

Discounts and freebies lead us to unwanted purchases. Many of us have bought insurance we don't need, or which doesn't serve our purpose, in order to save tax. Case in point, life insurance past middle-age when we would have already created assets to support any dependents Buying a 10-year money-back policy at age 22 when the risk profile is perhaps at its lowest as is the need to provide for dependents. The most appropriate insurance policy has to be bought at the correct life stage.

Necessity

In both cases above, the opportunity cost is that they lost out on buying the correct policy. For the middle aged, buying or enhancing a hospitalisation policy is a better bet than life insurance. Even a late-than- never pension policy would be better.

For the youngster, a term policy is the most cost-efficient buy and a hospitalisation policy is always a good choice.

Remember the objective

If you want efficient insurance and investments with good returns, don't rely on readymade combos.

With a little effort, you can seek solutions without compromising your objective and build up both your insurance and investment portfolios soundly.

We will see in the next installment of Cover Note the specifics of what policies you can buy to your best advantage whether you opt to stay in the old tax regime for now or move to the new one.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history.)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Citi Bank	10.75 onwardS	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3%
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
ICICI Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.85-18.20	10,834-12,751	2,167-2,550	Up to 2% (Minimum Rs 1,000 and Maximum Rs 10,000)
State Bank of India	10.90-15.40	10,846-12,000	2,169-2,400	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.10-14.60	10,648-11,790	2,130-2,358	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	12.45-16.15	11,236-12,199	2,247-2,440	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	10.15-16.70	10,660-12,346	2,132-2,469	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.75-16.00	10,562-12,159	2,112-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.15-15.25	10,909-11,961	2,182-2,392	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Upto 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	11.15-12.75	10,909-11,313	2,182-2,263	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.60-20.35	11,274-13,345	2,255-2,669	Up to 2%
IDBI Bank	9.50-14.00	10,501-11,634	2,100-2,327	1% (Minimum Rs 2,500)
UCO Bank	12.30-12.70	11,198-11,300	2,240-2,260	Up to 1%
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.25-15.05	10,440-11,908	2,088-2,382	Up to 1%
Karnataka Bank	13.81	11,585	2,317	Up to 0.25% (Minimum Rs 250)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Rates and charges as on February 9

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	8.75-10.25	10,319-10,685	Up to Rs. 1,000
Bank of Baroda	8.65-12.10	10,294-11,148	Up to 0.50% (Rs 2,500 - Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	9.15-11.85	10,416-11,084	waived off till 31st March 2023
Bank of India	8.60-10.60	10,282-10,772	NIL
UCO Bank	8.85 - 10.40	10,343-10,772	1% (Upto Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	8.50-9.35	10,258-10,464	NIL
IDBI Bank	9.10 - 11.45	10,403-10,984	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	9.05-12.55	10,391-11,262	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank**	9.80	10,574	100% waiver till 31st March 2023
ICICI Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	Rs 999-Rs 9,000
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	Up to 0.50% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.07-11.37	10,396-10,964	Up to 0.60% (Rs 2,500-Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.75	10,809	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Indian Bank	8.70-9.45	10,307-10,489	Up to 0.50% (Max. Rs 10,000)
South Indian Bank	11.40-12.85	10,971-11,338	1% (Max: Rs. 10,000)
City Union Bank	14.00-14.50	11,634-11,764	1.25% (Min: Rs 750)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holder. 0.05% concession in interest rate to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR.
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 800 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers.

Rates and charges as on February 9 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

NICOSIA

Cyprus's former Foreign Minister Christodoulides elected President

AP

Cyprus voters on Sunday elected the former Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides as the next president of the small EU member state, with his rival conceding defeat and congratulating him. Christodoulides, 49, won 51.92% to defeat fellow diplomat Andreas Mavroyiannis, 66, who took 48.08%. AFP

BEIJING

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to visit China to shore up relations

AP

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will meet with his counterpart, Xi Jinping, during his three-day trip in China starting on Tuesday, as the two U.S. rivals seek further cooperation. The two leaders met last September in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, when Xi Jinping underscored China's support for Iran. AP

WELLINGTON

New Zealand PM asks citizens to be prepared for Cyclone Gabrielle

AP

New Zealand's Prime Minister on Sunday warned residents to hunker down and prepare an evacuation plan as a cyclone began pummelling the northern tip of the country. Cyclone Gabrielle is forecast to envelop the upper half of the North Island over a 48-hour period from Sunday evening. AFP

ANTAKYA

Rivals Greece and Turkey seek better relations after earthquake

AP

Greece's Foreign Minister visited Turkey in a show of support after the country was hit by a devastating earthquake on last Monday, despite a longstanding rivalry between the two NATO countries. Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu boarded helicopters to visit the quake-hit regions. AFP

China planning Aksai Chin railway line to connect Tibet and Xinjiang

The line will broadly follow the course of the G219 national highway; the construction of the Xinjiang-Tibet highway through Aksai Chin had triggered tensions between India and China in the lead-up to the 1962 war

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China will soon begin construction on an ambitious new railway line connecting Xinjiang and Tibet that will run close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and through the disputed Aksai Chin region, according to a new railway plan released by the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) government.

The "medium to long term railway plan" for Tibet, made public last week, envisages expanding the TAR rail network to reach 4,000 km by 2025 up from the current 1,400 km, including new routes that will run up to China's borders with India and Nepal.

The most ambitious of the new plans is the Xinjiang-Tibet railway, which will broadly follow the course of the G219 national highway. The construction of the Xinjiang-Tibet highway through Aksai Chin had triggered tensions between India and China in the lead up to the 1962 war.

Racing ahead: The plan is to expand the Tibet Autonomous Region's rail network from 1,400 km to 4,000 km by 2025. AFP

The proposed railway will begin in Shigatse in Tibet, and run northwest along the Nepal border, before cutting north through Aksai Chin and ending in Hotan in Xinjiang. The planned route will pass through Rutog and around Pangong Lake on the Chinese side of the LAC. The first section, from Shigatse to Pakhuktso, will be completed by 2025, with the rest of the line, up to Hotan, expected to be finished by 2035.

"By 2025, the construction of several railway projects, including the Ya'an-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, the Shigatse-Pakhuktso section of the Xinjiang-Tibet Railway, and the Bomi-Ra'uk section of the Yunnan-Tibet Railway will all see major progress," said a State media report quoting the plan, which was released by the TAR Development and Reform Commission.

"Improvements to the regional railway network will be of great significance in promoting socioeconomic development and safeguarding national security," the report said.

Tibet currently only has three rail lines in operation: the Qinghai-Tibet link that opened in 2006, the Lhasa-Shigatse rail launched in 2014, and the Lhasa-Nyingchi line that began operation in 2021.

The Lhasa-Nyingchi line runs to Tibet's southeast, and near the border with India's Arunachal Pradesh. This line is being extended further east up to Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan and a major economic and military hub in western China, shortening the travel time between the two regional capitals from 36 hours to 12 hours.

Under the plan, border railway lines will be built up to Gyirong, the land port on the Nepal-Tibet border, and to Yadong county in the Chumbi valley, which borders India's Sikkim as well as Bhutan.

Twin purposes

The railway construction is being seen as serving two purposes: boosting border security by enabling China to more closely integrate border areas as well as mobilise quickly to the frontier when needed; and secondly, accelerating Tibet's economic integration with the hinterland. While Qinghai province has a rail link to Tibet, the plan will now extend railway links for the first time to the three other neighbouring provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan and Gansu.

After two downings, U.S. jet shoots down new mystery 'object' over Canada

Agence France-Presse
OTTAWA

A U.S. fighter jet shot down an unidentified object over Canada on Saturday, the second such incident in North American skies since the dramatic downing of a suspected Chinese spy balloon a week ago.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said a joint U.S.-Canadian military operation led to the takedown of the object, the latest in a series of mysterious air intrusions.

"Canadian and U.S. aircraft were scrambled, and a U.S. F-22 successfully fired at the object," Mr. Trudeau tweeted Saturday.

Shortly after the 3.41 p.m. (2041 GMT) downing of the object, aviation authorities shut down part of the airspace over the northwest U.S. State of Montana after detecting what they called a "radar anomaly," the U.S. Northern Command said.

Justin Trudeau said Canada's forces will recover and analyse the wreckage of the object.

In a sign of jitters over possible intrusions, the Northern Command said the U.S. fighter jets took to the skies but "did not identify any object to correlate to the radar hits." Skies were then reopened to commercial air traffic.

'Cylindrical object'

The object shot down in the Yukon was "small, cylindrical" in shape, said Canada's Defence Minister, Anita Anand.

"The object was flying at an altitude of approximately 40,000 feet, had unlawfully entered Canadian airspace, and posed a reasonable threat to the safety of civilian flight," Ms. Anand told reporters.

Mr. Trudeau said Canadian forces in the Yukon "will now recover and analyse the wreckage of the object." He said he spoke with U.S. President Joe Biden over the latest incursion, while Ms. Anand also said she spoke with U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin.

The new incursions into Alaska and the Yukon came after the United States said on Wednesday that suspected Chinese spy balloons like the one it shot down on February 4 were part of a "fleet" that has spanned five continents. NATO also voiced concern.

Ms. Anand, however, said "it would not be prudent for me to speculate on the origins of the object at this time."

Arab leaders warn Israeli actions in West Bank, Jerusalem threaten regional turmoil

Associated Press
CAIRO

Dozens of leaders and senior officials from Arab and Islamic countries warned on Sunday that Israeli actions in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank could worsen regional turmoil, as violence surges between Israel and the Palestinians.

The meeting in Cairo was hosted by the Arab League and attended by President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas along with many Foreign Ministers and senior officials.

The high-level gathering came amid one of the deadliest periods of fighting in years in Jerusalem and the neighboring Israeli-occupied territory. Forty-five Palestinians have been killed so far this year, according to a count by The Associated Press. Palestinians have killed 10 persons on the Israeli side during that time.

Demolitions by Israel

Speakers at the meeting condemned Israel's "unilateral measures" in Jerusalem and the West Bank in statements, including home demolitions and expanding settlements.

They also condemned visits by Israeli officials to the city's contested holy site, which is sacred to both Jews and Muslims and has often been the epicenter of Israeli-Palestinian unrest.

There was no immediate comment from Israel's government.

Turkey detains building contractors as earthquake death toll surpasses 33,000

Associated Press
ANTAKYA

Turkish justice officials targeted more than 130 people allegedly involved in shoddy and illegal construction methods as rescuers extricated more survivors, including a pregnant woman and two small children, six days after a pair of earthquakes collapsed thousands of buildings in the country.

The death toll from Monday's quakes that hit southeastern Turkey and northern Syria stood at 33,179 on Sunday and was certain to rise as search teams locate more bodies in the rubble. Authorities said more than 92,600 other people were injured in the disaster.

As despair also bred rage at the agonisingly slow rescue efforts, the focus turned to who was to blame for not better preparing people in the earthquake-prone region that includes an area of Syria.

Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said on Sunday that 134 people were being investigated for their alleged responsibility in the construction of buildings that failed to withstand the quakes, according to Turkey's state-run *Anadolu* news agency.

Meanwhile, the United Nations denounced on Sunday the failure to deliver desperately needed aid to war-torn regions of Syria.

"We have so far failed the people in northwest Syria. They rightly feel abandoned. Looking for international help that hasn't arrived," Mr. Griffiths said.

Sport

Lagos, who won well last time, should score an encore in the Kakatiya Million

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's six-year-old mare Lagos, who won well in her last outing, should score an encore in the Kakatiya Million, the feature event of the Monday's (Feb. 13) races here.

1 KAMAREDDY CUP (DIV. II) (1,400), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 1.10 p.m.: 1. Mr. Perfect (8) Mohit Singh 60, 2. Pal Cha (2) Gaurav Singh 58.5, 3. Indian King (5) Mukesh Kumar 57.5, 4. Keep Faith (7) Aneel 55 5. Soorya Vahan (9) P. Sai Kumar 54, 6. Special And Thong (6) B. Nikhil 53.5, 7. Coming Home (4) D.S. Deora 52, 8. My Master (1) Md. Ekram Alam 51.5 and 9. Jet Falcon (3) Surya Prakash 51.

1. PAL CHA, 2. MR. PERFECT, 3. INDIAN KING

2 SEA BIRD PLATE (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 1.45: 1. Detective (6) B. Nikhil 56, 2. Juggernaut Express (5) Mukesh Kumar 56, 3. Worcester (2) Rafique Sk. 56, 4. Bash On Regardless (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 5. Fly Me (3) Mohit Singh 54.5, 6. Miss Maya (7) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 7. Sangreal (8) Suraj Narredu 54.5, and 8. Toffee (1) Imran Chisty 54.5.

1. MISS MAYA, 2. SANGREAL, 3. TOFFEE

3 RISING STAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.20: 1. Black Eagle (8) Akshay Kumar 62, 2. Milton Keynes (2) Mukesh Kumar 61.5, 3. N R I Fantasy (6) Imran Chisty 59, 4. Divine Connection (3) Aneel 56.5, 5. Hot Seat (7) Mohit Singh 56, 6. Undaunted (1) B. Nikhil 54.5, 7. Solar Princess (4) Afroz Khan 53 and 8. Apex Star (5) Sonu Kumar 52.5.

1. BLACK EAGLE, 2. MILTON KEYNES, 3. N R I FANTASY

4 KAMAREDDY CUP (DIV. I) (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.55: 1. Classy Dame (1) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Vision Of Rose (3) Gaurav Singh 59.5, 3. Alpine Girl (2) Mohit Singh 57.5, 4. Master Touch (4) Akshay Kumar 56, 5. Mireya (5) B. Nikhil 54, 6. Pedro Planet (8) Afroz Khan 53.5, 7. Burgundy Black (6) D.S. Deora 53, 8. Reining Queen (10) P. Ajeeth Kumar 52.5, 9. Sucker Punch (9) P. Sai Kumar 52.5 and 10. Fresh Hope (7) Surya Prakash 50.5.

1. MASTER TOUCH, 2. SUCKER PUNCH, 3. MIREYA

5 KUNTLA PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.30: 1. Red Snaper (8) Afroz Khan 60, 2. City Of Blessing (3) Sonu Kumar 57.5, 3. Beauty Flame (9) Santosh Raj 53, 4. Char Ek Char (5) S. Saqlain 52, 5. Grand Duke (1) Nakhat Singh 51.5, 6. Malibu (2) Md. Ekram Alam 51.5, 7. Southern Act (7) Kuldeep S 51.5, 8. Star Babe (6) Abhay Singh 51.5 and 9. Wallop And Gallop (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 51.

1. CITY OF BLESSING, 2. CHAR EK CHAR, 3. SOUTHERN ACT

6 TELANGANA RACE HORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 4.05: 1. City Of Bliss (4) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Bangor On Dee (9) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 3. Miss Little Angel (5) Imran Chisty 55.5, 4. Sally (8) D.S. Deora 54.5, 5. Stay Smart (7) Gaurav Singh 53.5, 6. Strauss (3) Suraj Narredu 53.5, 7. Avancia (10) Mohit Singh 53, 8. Dyanoosh (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 53, 9. Rising Queen (12) P. Sai Kumar 53, 10. Stag's Leap (1) S. Saqlain 53, 11. Mind Reader (6) Surya Prakash 51 and 12. Ok Boss (11) Rafique Sk. 51.

1. STRAUSS, 2. BANGOR ON DEE, 3. STAG'S LEAP

7 KAKATIYA MILLION (1,200m) (Terms), 4-y-o and upward – 4.40: 1. Black Onyx (5) D.S. Deora 56, 2. De Villiers (4) Akshay Kumar 56, 3. Kingston (3) Imran Chisty 56, 4. Beauty Blaze (1) Santosh Raj 54.5 and 5. Lagos (2) Suraj Narredu 54.5.

1. LAGOS, 2. BLACK ONYX

8 DREAM GIRL PLATE (1,800m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III) – 5.15: 1. Muaser (12) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. My Grandeur (4) P. Sai Kumar 60, 3. My Way Or Highway (9) Mohit Singh 60, 4. Shubhrak (8) S. Saqlain 60, 5. Special Effort (10) Abhay Singh 60, 6. Survivor (2) Surya Prakash 60, 7. Wot's Up Jay (1) Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 8. Canterbury (7) Aneel 59, 9. Jack Daniel (11) R.S. Jodha 59, 10. Janasu (5) A.A. Vikrant 58.5, 11. Call Of The Blue (3) Gaurav Singh 55.5, 12. Raniji (6) Santosh Raj 53.5 and 13. It's My Life (13) B. Nikhil 50.5.

1. MUASER, 2. WOT'S UP JAY, 3. SHUBHRAK

Day's Best: LAGOS

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8. Tanala: All races.

N R I Doublepower bags the Godolphin Barb Million

HYDERABAD: The 3-year-old filly N R I Doublepower, ridden by Imran Chisty, won the Godolphin Barb Million, the main event of Sunday's (Feb. 12) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male and trained by G. Shashikanth.

1. RISING STAR PLATE (DIV. I): ANGEL TESORO (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Its On (D.S. Deora) 2, Sound Echo (Kuldeep S) 3 and My Marvel (P. Sai Kumar) 4. Nk, 2 and 1-1/2. 1m 13. 22s. ₹69 (w), 14, 13 and 23 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 53, SHW: 18 and 17, FP: 219, Q: 69, Tanala: 1,304. Favourite: High Reward.

Owners: Mrs. Marie Prasad, Mr. Munawar Hussain & Mr. K. Pradhyumna Reddy. Trainer: Sk. Waseem Ahmed.

2. MOSS BANK PLATE: MIRACLE MARY (Akshay Kumar) 1, Splendour On Grass (Suraj Narredu) 2, Hemping Vazra (Afroz Khan) 3 and Enabling (Kiran Naidu) 4. 1, 1 and 9-1/4. 1m 12. 70s. ₹30 (w), 14, 12 and 16 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 37, SHW: 16 and 22, FP: 102, Q: 59, Tanala: 361. Favourite: Enabling.

Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

3. AUXILIARY CUP: LA MIRAGE (Suraj Narredu) 1, True Marshal (Akshay Kumar) 2, Nightmare (Imran Chisty) 3 and Angelita (Mukesh Kumar) 4. 5, Nk and 1-1/4. 1m 25. 64s. ₹25 (w), 12, 13 and 28 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 74, SHW: 12 and 14, FP: 48, Q: 16, Tanala: 368. Favourite: True Marshal.

Owners: Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. Bal Krishan Agarwal & Mr. P. Ranga Raju. Trainer: D. Netto.

4. SAROORNAGAR PLATE: CHINA TOWN (Imran Chisty) 1, Role Model (Nakhat Singh) 2, Golden Inzio (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Alpine Girl (Mohit Singh) 4. 2, Shd and 1-1/4. 1m 54. 81s. ₹34 (w), 14, 27 and 28 (p). SHP: 78, THP: 68, SHW: 17 and 36, FP: 322, Q: 165, Tanala: 2,811. Favourite: Advance Guard.

Owner: Mr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

5. RAJA BAHADUR VENKATARAMA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: TRUMP STAR (Suraj Narredu) 1, Carlisle (Afroz Khan) 2, Maximum Glamour (Mohit Singh) 3 and Unsung Hero (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. Not run: Shazam 1-1/4, Hd and 1/2. 1m 11. 77s. ₹15 (w), 10, 21 and 12 (p). SHP: 53, THP: 32, SHW: 10 and 27, FP: 83, Q: 72, Tanala: 241. Favourite: Trump Star.

Owners: Mr. Eswarachandra Rajagopal Tripuraneni, Mr. P. Ranga Raju & Mr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. GODOLPHIN BARB MILLION: N R I DOUBLEPOWER (Imran Chisty) 1, Golden Gazelle (D.S. Deora) 2, Lucky Zone (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Original Sin (Akshay Kumar) 4. 2, 1-1/4 and 2. 1m 27. 18s. ₹44 (w), 16 and 32 (p). SHP: 64, THP: 56, SHW: 11 and 64, FP: 395, Q: 153, Tanala: 1,779. Favourite: Original Sin.

Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

7. RISING STAR PLATE (DIV. III): DESERT SULTAN (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Mr. Perfect (Mohit Singh) 2, Ayur Tej (Afroz Khan) 3 and Track Blazer (Gaurav Singh) 4. 1/2, Hd and 1m 14. 25s. ₹90 (w), 17, 10 and 16 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 38, SHW: 32 and 33, FP: 526, Q: 216, Tanala: 1,455. Favourite: Star Medal.

Owner: Mr. J. Vijay Raghavendra. Trainer: Sk. Waseem Ahmed.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹10,106 (25 tkts.), 30%: 235 (459 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2,917 (17 tkts.), (ii) 3,981 (14 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 411 (102 tkts.), (ii) 770 (61 tkts.).

Tarundeep, Ankita win

Sports Bureau

Tarundeep Rai and Ankita Bhakat emerged the recurve men's and women's champions in the final leg of the 2022 National ranking archery tournament (NRAT), which concluded in Delhi on Sunday.

The results (seniors only):
Recurve: Men: Final: Tarundeep Rai bt Parth Salunkhe 6-2; **Third place playoff:** Sukhchain Singh bt Atanu Das 5-5 (shoot-off: X-9). **Women: Final:** Ankita Bhakat bt Madhu Vedwan 6-4; **Third place play-off:** Bhajan Kaur bt Ridhi Phor 6-2. **Compound: Men: Final:** Priyansh bt Prathamesh Fuge 146-143; **Third place playoff:** Kushal Dalal bt Rishabh Yadav 147-142. **Women: Final:** V. Jyothi Surekha bt Raginee Marko 147-147 (shoot-off: 10-9); **Third place playoff:** Parneet Kaur bt Muskan Kirar 144-136.

EMPHATIC

Healy, Gardner shine as Australia crushes New Zealand

Australia posted a convincing by 97-run win over New Zealand in the Women's T20 World Cup at Boland Park on Saturday.
The scores: Australia 173/9 in 20 overs (Alyssa Healy 55, Meg Lanning 41, Ellyse Perry 40; Tahuhu 3/37, Amelia Kerr 3/23) bt New Zealand 76 in 14 overs (Megan Schutt 2/8, Ashleigh Gardner 5/12). **PoM:** Gardner.

CHAMPION

Real Madrid beats Al Hilal to win record fifth Club World Cup

Real Madrid lifted the Club World Cup for a record fifth time with a pulsating 5-3 win over Al Hilal in Morocco on Saturday. Vinicius Junior and Fede Valverde struck twice each, while Karim Benzema also scored in Madrid's spectacular victory. Real thus secured its second piece of silverware of the season, after the European Super Cup.

WORLD'S BEST

Coleman keeps 60m crown at Millrose; Lyles disqualified

World record-holder Christian Coleman of the USA defended his Millrose Games 60m title in a 2023 world-best of 6.47s in New York City on Saturday after World 200m champion Noah Lyles was disqualified. Lyles flinched in the starting block and was disqualified for a false start but protested the decision and was allowed to run.

FIRST WIN

Bengaluru Torpedoes beats Mumbai Meteors

Bengaluru Torpedoes defeated Mumbai Meteors 15-10, 12-15, 15-13, 15-9, 15-9 in the Prime Volleyball League at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday. The Bengaluru side, which recorded its first win, moved to fourth spot. Bengaluru's Bulgarian player Tsvetelin Tsvetanov was named the Player-of-the-match.

Jemimah does the star turn as India bests Pakistan

The No. 3 batter's unbeaten half-century and Richa's cameo towards the end highlight the batting effort of the Women in Blue after the rival team posts 149 for four in 20 overs

WOMEN'S T20 WC

Press Trust of India
CAPE TOWN

Experienced batter Jemimah Rodrigues produced a masterclass of an innings as she and youngster Richa Ghosh held their nerve under pressure to guide India to a seven-wicket win over Pakistan in their opening match of the Women's T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

Jemimah (53 n.o., 38b, 8x4) and Richa (31 n.o., 20b, 5x4) stitched 58 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket as India chased down a challenging target of 150 with six balls to spare. India reached 151 for three in 19 overs, its highest successful chase in the T20 World Cup.

Shafali Verma (33, 25b, 4x4) and Yastika Bhatia (17, 20b, 2x4) gave a good start to the Indian run chase, adding 38 runs in 5.3 overs. The PowerPlay overs yielded 43 runs for the loss of one wicket. Shafali, who successfully reviewed a lbw decision in the fourth over, was going strong as she took the attack to the opposition bowlers.

One-down Jemimah survived a close stumping call as India reached 67 for two at the half-way mark with the experienced captain Harmanpreet Kaur having arrived at the crease.

Jumping for joy: Jemimah paced her innings to perfection to take India over the finish line. AP

Harmanpreet struck a boundary from the third delivery she faced and repeated it in the same 11th over to swell the Indian total. But she was guilty of trying to slog-sweep across the line and against the turn off the bowling of Fatima Sana. The top edge was easily taken by Bismah Maroof as India was reduced to 93 for three in 13.3 overs.

Richa hit three successive boundaries in the first three balls of the 18th over.

Needing 14 from the last two overs, Jemimah struck three fours in the penultimate over to end the match in a jiffy.

Earlier, Pakistan posted 149 for four, its highest T20 World Cup total. Captain Bismah Maroof (68 n.o.) and Ayesha Naseem (43 n.o.) added 81 for the unbroken fifth wicket.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN
Muneeba Ali st. Richa b Radha 12 *(14b, 1x4)*, Javeria Khan c Harmanpreet b Deepti 8 *(6b, 1x4)*, Bismah Maroof (not out) 68 *(55b, 7x4)*, Nida Dar c Richa b Pooja 0 *(2b)*, Sidra Ameen c Richa b Radha 11 *(18b)*, Ayesha Naseem (not out) 43 *(25b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Extras (lb-1, w-6): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 149.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-10 (Javeria, 1.4 overs), 2-42 (Muneeba, 6.5), 3-43 (Nida, 7.3), 4-68 (Sidra, 12.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Renuka 3-0-24-0, Deepti 4-0-39-1, Rajeshwari 4-0-31-0, Radha 4-0-21-2, Pooja 4-0-30-1, Shafali 1-0-3-0.

INDIA
Yastika Bhatia c Fatima b Sadia 17 *(20b, 2x4)*, Shafali Verma c Sidra b Nashra 33 *(25b, 4x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues (not out) 53 *(38b, 8x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Bismah b Nashra 16 *(12b, 2x4)*, Richa Ghosh (not out) 31 *(20b, 5x4)*; Extras (w-1): 1; Total (for three wkts. in 19 overs): 151.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-38 (Yastika, 5.3), 2-65 (Shafali, 9.1), 3-93 (Harmanpreet, 13.3).

PAKISTAN BOWLING
Fatima 4-0-42-0, Sadia 4-0-25-1, Aiman 3-0-33-0, Nida 4-0-36-0, Nashra 4-0-15-2.

Toss: Pakistan. **PoM:** Jemimah.
India won by seven wickets with six balls remaining.
India's next match: Feb. 15 vs West Indies, 6.30 p.m. IST.

Women cricketers in the spotlight as the WPL auction is ready to roll

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Nilima Jogalekar will switch on the television set at her home in Pune on Monday afternoon to witness a historic moment in a game that has been her life for decades.

Like the women cricketers – past and present – all over the world, she is excited about the Women's Premier League (WPL) auction to be held at the Jio World Convention Centre from 2.30 p.m. The first prize Nilima, who played five Tests and 20 ODIs for India, won in cricket was a glucose biscuit, half-a-century ago.

In those days, a woman player could not have hoped for more than that. So Nilima, now a match referee, is delighted that even the base price of Smriti Mandhana, her fellow-Maharashtrian, is ₹50 lakh at the auction.

Smriti could well be one of the players that every franchise will want to sign up. She is one of 448 players who will go under the hammer.

And up for grabs are 90 slots in the five franchises – Adani Group (Ahmedabad); IndiaWin Sports (Mumbai Indians), Mumbai; Royal Challengers Sports Pvt. Ltd. (Bengaluru); JSW-GMR Cricket Pvt. Ltd. (Delhi Capitals), Delhi; Capri Global, Lucknow – who can buy six overseas players each. A team could field five foreigners, but one of them should be from an associate nation.

The highest base price is ₹50 lakh and the lowest ₹10 lakh. The purse available for a franchise is ₹12 crore. That means a franchise may not be able to go all out in its pursuit to buy a player that it is very keen on, something we have become used to in the men's IPL auction.

Just as the IPL has transformed men's cricket in India, the WPL could revolutionise the women's game in the country. The BCCI may have taken a while to respond to the clamour – even from overseas players – for a professional women's league, but the WPL's valuation (₹4669.99 crore) shows how much the game has grown in popularity.

The WPL's timing is perfect as India triumphed in the inaugural Women's Under-19 World Cup in South Africa recently. Some of them are bound to interest the franchises: batters Shweta Sehrawat, the tournament's leading run-getter, G. Trisha and Soumya Tiwari, and bowlers Titas Sadhu, Parshavi Chopra and Mannat Kashyap.

There are many senior Indian stars, too, who are expected to trigger a bidding frenzy: batters Harmanpreet Kaur, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues and Harleen Deol, all-rounders Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar and Sneh Rana, wicketkeeper-batters Richa Ghosh and Yastika Bhatia, and bowlers Renuka Singh and Radha Yadav.

Add to that the biggest names from overseas – Meg Lanning, Laura Wolvaardt, Beth Mooney, Alyssa Healy, Sophie Devine, Deandra Dottin, Suzie Bates, Marizanne Kapp, Amelia Kerr, Sophie Ecclestone, Megan Schutt and Shabnim Ismail – a Manic Monday awaits.

Auction Guide

As the five WPL franchises get ready to finalise their squads, a look at what's in store:

Smriti Mandhana

5 Overseas players per team, one from an associate nation
12 Purse for the first season (in crores)
18 Maximum number for each team
90 Slots available
448 Players to be auctioned

Watch out for
INDIANS: Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Renuka Singh, Shweta Sehrawat and Parshavi Chopra

Alyssa Healy

OVERSEAS
- **Australia:** Meg Lanning, Beth Mooney, Alyssa Healy, Ellyse Perry, Ashleigh Gardner, Grace Harris, Megan Schutt and Darcie Brown
- **England:** Danni Wyatt, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Sophie Ecclestone and Sarah Glenn
- **South Africa:** Laura Wolvaardt, Marizanne Kapp, Sinalo Jafta and Shabnim Ismail
- **New Zealand:** Sophie Devine, Suzie Bates and Amelia Kerr
- **Sri Lanka:** Chamari Athapaththu
- **West Indies:** Deandra Dottin

THE FRANCHISES
- **Adani Group,** Ahmedabad
- **IndiaWin Sports** (Mumbai Indians), Mumbai
- **Royal Challengers Sports Pvt. Ltd.** (Bengaluru)
- **JSW-GMR Cricket Pvt. Ltd.** (Delhi Capitals), Delhi
- **Capri Global,** Lucknow

Man City closes the gap on Arsenal

Agence France-Presse
MANCHESTER

Manchester City shrugged off the uncertainty caused by a series of Premier League charges to move to within three points of Arsenal at the top of the table with a 3-1 win over Aston Villa on Sunday.

Earlier, late goals from Marcus Rashford and Alejandro Garnacho earned Manchester United a hard-fought 2-0 victory at Leeds United.

The results:

Premier League: Leeds 0 lost to Manchester United 2 (Rashford 80, Garnacho 85); Manchester City 3 (Rodri 4, Gundogan 39, Mahrez 45+1-pen) bt Aston Villa 1 (Watkins 61).

LaLiga: Getafe 1 (Unal 77) drew with Rayo Vallecano 1 (Arambarri 38-og); Celta Vigo 0 lost to Atletico Madrid 1 (Depay 89).

On Saturday: LaLiga: Sevilla 2 (En-Nesyri 28, Gil 40) bt Real Mallorca 0; Valencia 1 (Castillejo 17) lost to Athletic Bilbao 2 (Nico Williams 30, Sancet 72).

Serie A: Lecce 1 (Ibanez 7-og) drew with Roma 1 (Dybala 17-pen); Lazio 0 lost to Atalanta 2 (Zappacosta 23, Hojlund 65).

Leo is his own man and is hungry for tennis, says father Borg

TENNIS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Composure was Bjorn Borg's middle name in his playing days. Even 40 years after retirement, the 66-year-old, 11-time Grand Slam champion from Sweden maintains the calm demeanour that made him one of tennis' all-time greats.

Speaking to the media on the eve of the ATP Challenger-100 men's International tennis tournament, Borg, who is here to watch his 19-year-old son Leo play, said, "My wife Patricia's biggest wish was to visit India," he said.

On whether he gives inputs to his son during training or on tour, Borg said, "Leo has his own team. He is very motivated and works really hard on and off the court. We have a very good relationship. I ask him if he wants to know anything about tennis, and he says, 'I have nothing to ask you!' He is hungry for tennis."

Meeting of the stars: Bjorn Borg will have a lot to catch up on with Vijay Amritraj about their playing days. M. VEDHAN

Recalling his experience as captain of Team Europe, which included Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, at the Laver Cup, Borg said, "I am very proud of Team Europe. Vancouver in September will be the last time I will captain at the Laver Cup. It has been six great years."

Justifying the wild-card given to Leo, Tamil Nadu Tennis Association president Vijay Amritraj, said, "He's a young guy from Europe who has won the Futures recently."

The bottom line

The Indian tennis legend said foreigners had gone on to do really well [compared to Indians] whenever they were given wild-card opportunities.

"Bjorn Phau from Germany came with Boris [Becker] for the 1998 Gold Flake Open here and he jumped into the top 50 [career-high 59 in 2006]. Russia's Karen Khachanov was given the wild-card in 2016 and he reached the semifinals of the 2023 Australian Open. We [Indians] need to be inspired by them. That's really the bottom line. Leo is in that category," he said.

When asked whether a WTA tournament would return to India, Vijay said, "It's a work in progress. WTA should be back in September, hopefully. It's really important for our girls."

'Trying to focus on my journey, not my name'

Abhishek Saini
CHENNAI

When one is the son of an 11-time Grand Slam champion, the pressure of expectations almost becomes second skin. This has been the story of Leo Borg's nascent career so far.

"Of course, I have pressure since I have a big name. I'm trying to focus on my journey and not think about my name too much. I just think of my game," Leo said.

In the city to play the Chennai Open Challenger, the 19-year-old has been awarded a wildcard entry to the main draw and is set to begin his campaign on Tuesday.

For a major part of his drills, Leo had stationed himself well beyond the baseline – something that seems to have been passed on from father to son. The former World No. 1 used to float at the baseline and effortlessly torment his opponents with passing shots. But Leo has taken it a notch higher.

Carve his own path: Leo Borg will be keen to make his game do the talking. GETTY IMAGES

"I see myself as an aggressive baseliner. I want to take the first step and take the ball to hit. But I'm now starting to work on my defence also," he added.

With a lean physique, white attire and court positioning in tune with his father's, one might call Leo a spitting image of Bjorn, minus only the headband maybe. There is one other major difference too.

Bjorn 'Ice' Borg, as he was called, was known for his stoic, calm demeanour on court. Leo, however, does not shy from rants every once in a while.

"It is hard to be as cold as him," Leo said with a cheeky smile. "(But) I have always been inspired by his mental side. He is cool in the most important points and matches," Leo added.

INBRIEF

Gudakesh Motie's seven-for rips Zimbabwe apart

West Indies off-spinner Gudakesh Motie wreaked havoc in the second Test against Zimbabwe on Sunday in Bulawayo, taking seven wickets to help dismiss the hosts for 115. In a devastating 14.5-over spell, Motie claimed seven in a row.

The scores: Zimbabwe 115 in 40.5 overs (Innocent Kaia 38, Gudakesh Motie 7/37) vs West Indies 133/4 in 41 overs (Raymon Reifer 53, Tagenarine Chanderpaul 36). **Toss**: Zimbabwe.

Jeswin and Jyothi take silver with indoor National records

Long jumper Jeswin Aldrin and 60m hurdler Jyothi Yarraji broke national indoor records while winning silver medals on the final day of the 10th Asian indoor athletics championships at Astana, Kazakhstan, on Sunday. Aldrin, who fouled four of his six attempts in the final, jumped 7.97m in his second attempt to better his own national record of 7.93m which came in the qualification round a couple of days ago while Yarraji also bettered her performance in the heats.

The results (gold medallists and Indian performances in finals): Men: 800m: 1. Ebrahim Alzofairi (Kuw) 1:49.33s. **3000m:** 1. Mohamad Algarni (Qat) 7:55.25s. **60m hurdles:** 1. David Yefremov (Kaz) 7.65s. **Long jump:** 1. Lin Yu-Tang (Tpe) 8.02m, 2. Jeswin Aldrin (Ind) 7.97 indoor NR, OR 7.93, own, 2023. **High jump:** 1. Ryoichi Akamatsu (Jpn) 2.28m, 6. Sarvesh Anil Kushare (Ind) 2.20m. **Heptathlon:** 1. Yuma Maruyama (Jpn) 5801 pts. **Women: 800m:** 1. Wu Hongjiao (Chn) 2:06.85s. **60m hurdles:** 1. Masumi Aoki (Jpn) 8.01s, 2. Jyothi Yarraji (Ind) 8.13 NR, OR 8.16 own, 2023. **Long jump:** 1. Sumire Hata (Jpn) 6.64m, 5. Shaili Singh (Ind) 6.27. **High jump:** 1. Nadezhda Dubovitskaya (Kaz) 1.89m, 6. Abhinaya Shetty (Ind) 1.75.

Pakistan boys and Malaysia girls defend title

Top seed Pakistan outplayed India 2-0 in the boys final of the HCL-21st Asian junior team squash championships here on Sunday. This was Pakistan's 15th title. In the girls' section, Malaysia, the top seed, clinched its 10th title and fourth in a row, defeating Hong Kong 2-0.

The results (finals): Boys: Pakistan bt India 2-0 (Noor Zaman bt Krishna Mishra 12-10, 9-11, 13-11, 11-9; Muhammad Hamza Khan bt Paarth Ambani 11-7, 11-5, 11-4). **Bronze:** Malaysia & Korea.
Girls: Malaysia bt Hong Kong 2-0 (Aira Binti Azman bt Wai Sze Wing 11-2, 11-9, 11-5; Yasshmita Jadishkumar bt Tse Yee Lam Toby 11-5, 7-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7). **Bronze:** Japan & India.

LIVE TELECAST

Zimbabwe vs West Indies: 2nd Test, day 2, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
Women's Premier League Auction: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 2.30 p.m. onwards
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 & 4.30 p.m.
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 & 10.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Managing two master craftsmen was the greatest pressure on me: Rohit

With personal milestones in sight, neither Ashwin nor Jadeja wanted to let go of the ball, says the India skipper; with a combined tally of 700-plus Test wickets, the duo has been literally unplayable, especially at home

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

Rohit Sharma admitted he was under the pump during Australia's second innings on Saturday. Not because of any Australian batter's resistance but because neither of his two primary spinners wanted to let go of the ball.

Challenge
"Jadeja was on 249 (Test) wickets and he was telling me: '*Mereko ball de* (give me the ball)'. Ashwin was on four wickets and he wanted five and that was the challenge I faced," Rohit revealed.

"I really don't know too much about milestones, but these guys know about it. So, yeah, that's the challenge of captaining them."

Jokes apart, no captain could have asked for a better spin duo in his armoury than Ashwin and Jadeja. With a combined tally of 700-plus Test wickets, the two have been literally unplayable in their backyard. And, it was evident during the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, when Australia couldn't bat 100 overs in both innings combined.

Relishing a challenge: Ashwin and Jadeja give captain Rohit the pleasantest of headaches on the field. K.R. DEEPAK

India's envious record at home over the last decade is largely a result of the duo's decimation of opposition line-ups in a manner similar to the one witnessed at Jamtha over the last three days.

No wonder then India has been at its dominant best with the duo in its ranks, especially at home.

Of the 37 Tests Ashwin and Jadeja have played together at home, India has won a whopping 29, losing a solitary Test (Pune, 2017).

Add Axar Patel's accuracy to the mix and it becomes a lethal combination to face in sub-continental conditions.

"It's like captaining (Pat) Cummins, (Josh) Hazlewood and (Mitchell) Starc in Australia. Pretty similar. When you have the quality of Axar, Jadeja and Ash, having played in India for so many years, playing on pitches like these, it's always a blessing," Rohit said.

"The conditions are there, yes, but you need to exploit them. The conditions are there for everyone, but what they extract from those conditions makes them really, really special. They have played on these pitches a lot and they know which areas to hit, how to keep applying that pressure," Rohit said.

Rohit added that he learnt the art of handling top-notch spinners like Ashwin and Jadeja, besides juggling a third, from his predecessor Virat Kohli.

"When Virat was captaining, I noticed one thing: even if we don't get a wicket, the pressure has to be applied for the opposition to make a mistake. That's what I learnt when Virat was captaining and these guys were bowling," he said.

Keeping at it
"That's what I'm trying to do now. Apply pressure and don't expect a wicket every ball. It's not going to happen like that. But, if it happens, nothing like it! We got to keep at it, keep putting the ball in the right areas and let the pitch help you," he said.

As long as Ashwin and Jadeja persist with the same plan, Rohit will not mind being under pressure from the duo for wanting to bowl all the time.

Saurashtra survives a late scare from Karnataka to enter the final

RANJI SEMIFINALS

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Saurashtra entered its fifth Ranji Trophy final - third in four editions - with a nervy four-wicket victory over Karnataka at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday. Saurashtra will meet Bengal in what will be a repeat of the 2019-20 final that the former won.

For a fleeting hour, Karnataka threatened to flip the script and make its first Ranji final since the 2014-15 season. After setting a paltry 115-run target, it reduced the visitors to 42 for five, with the seasoned Sheldon Jackson back in the pavilion too.

Speedster V. Koushik removed openers Harvik Desai and Snell Patel during a fine first spell (8-1-20-2) before offie K. Gowtham set off a commotion by dismissing three batters in 11 balls.

The 34-year-old exploited the rough outside the right-hander's off-stump, bowling a stifling line from over the wicket and allowing the pitch to do the rest. Jackson, Vishvarajsinh Jadeja and Chirag Jani were all trapped leg-before by deliveries that kept low.

Respects: Prerak touches skipper Vasavada's feet after the latter's knock guided his side home. SUDHAKARA JAIN

But Saurashtra showed it had many aces up its sleeve by promoting southpaw Chetan Sakariya to go out and banish the seeping pessimism. This he did by planting his foot across and smashing Gowtham for two sixes over deep mid-wicket and reserved the same treatment for leggie Shreyas Gopal a little later.

It hurt that Gowtham (15-3-38-3) had no support. Skipper Arpit Vasavada (47 n.o., 51b, 7x4) hit V. Vyshak for three pressure-relieving fours and then collected two boundaries off Shreyas.

With 15 runs needed, R. Samarth dropped Sakariya at short-leg. Manish Pandey's horror show continued as he fluffed an easy chance off Vasavada at short-cover. While all of this may make it seem like Karnataka was mighty close, when the dust settles, it will be evident that the match was lost in the first innings.

In the morning, the young Nikin Jose tried his best to help Karnataka set a challenging target by scoring his maiden First Class century (109, 161b, 9x4). Though he was reprieved thrice and was seemingly helped by a dodgy run-out call by the third umpire, he showed enough grit and determination. But even his best efforts couldn't prevent Karnataka from losing a fourth Ranji semifinal in five editions.

Karnataka —1st innings: 407.
Saurashtra —1st innings: 527.
Karnataka —2nd innings: R. Samarth lbw b Sakariya 0, Mayank Agarwal c Sakariya b Dharmendrasinh 55, Devdutt Padikkal b Sakariya 7, Nikin Jose b Dharmendrasinh 109, Manish Pandey lbw b Bhut 4, Shreyas Gopal b Sakariya 4, Sharath Srinivas lbw b Dharmendrasinh 2, K. Gowtham c Bhut b Sakariya 23, V. Vyshak b Dharmendrasinh 20, Vidwath Kaverappa c Sakariya b Bhut 0, V. Koushik (not out) 0; Extras: (b-4, lb-6): 10; Total: (in 58.2 overs): 234.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-14, 3-114, 4-123, 5-133, 6-136, 7-171, 8-231, 9-234.
Saurashtra bowling: Sakariya 11-0-45-4, Kushang 7-0-37-0, Mankad 1-0-6-0, Dharmendrasinh 23.2-2-79-4, Bhut 16-0-57-2.
Saurashtra —2nd innings: Harvik Desai c Mayank b Koushik 11, Snell Patel c Mayank b Koushik 1, Vishvarajsinh Jadeja lbw b Gowtham 17, Sheldon Jackson lbw b Gowtham 7, Arpit Vasavada (not out) 47, Chirag Jani lbw b Gowtham 1, Chetan Sakariya c Sharath Srinivas b Koushik 24, Prerak Mankad (not out) 7; Extras: (b-1, lb-1): 2; Total (for six wkts in 34.2 overs): 117.
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-20, 3-35, 4-40, 5-42, 6-105.
Karnataka bowling: Gowtham 15-3-38-3, Kaverappa 4-1-10-0, Koushik 10.2-1-32-3, Vyshak 2-0-15-0, Shreyas 3-0-20-0.

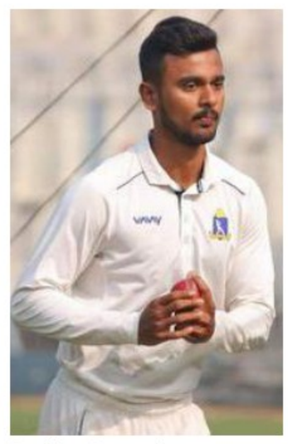
Bengal thrashes Madhya Pradesh

INDORE
DHRUVA PRASAD

Bengal settled scores with Madhya Pradesh as it thrashed the defending champion by 306 runs in the Ranji Trophy semifinal at the Holkar Cricket Stadium here on Sunday.

Pradipta Pramanik (five for 51) set the seal on Madhya Pradesh's flailing hopes as celebrations broke out amid chants of 'Joy Bangla (Victory to Bengal)'.

Having avenged last year's semifinal loss to MP, Bengal will have more ghosts to exorcise when it meets Saurashtra in a rematch of the 2019-20 final at Eden Gardens.



Pradipta Pramanik. CAB MEDIA

The scores:
Bengal — 1st innings: 438.
Madhya Pradesh — 1st innings: 170.
Bengal — 2nd innings: Karan Lal b Saransh 19, Abhimanyu Easwaran b Kartikeya 17, Sudip Gharami lbw b Saransh 41, Anustup Majumdar lbw b Kartikeya 80, Manoj Tiwary c Kartikeya b Saransh 15, Abishek Porel c Patidar b Saransh 1, Shahbaz Ahmed lbw b Kartikeya 29, Pradipta Pramanik (not out) 60, Akash Deep c Avesh b Saransh 0, Mukesh Kumar c sub (Aman) b Saransh 2, Ishan Porel lbw b Avesh 1; Extras (b-6, lb-8): 14; Total (in 119.4 overs): 279.
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-39, 3-124, 4-163, 5-165, 6-213, 7-218, 8-219, 9-223.
Madhya Pradesh bowling: Kartikeya 46-17-63-3, Anubhav 13-2-38-0, Avesh 11.4-3-39-1, Gaurav 7-0-22-0, Saransh 42-9-103-6.
Madhya Pradesh — 2nd innings: Himanshu Mantri c Tiwary b Shahbaz 16, Yash Dubey c sub (Saifi) b Akash 30, Shubham Sharma b Pramanik 24, Rajat Patidar c Pramanik b Mukesh 52, Venkatesh Iyer b Pramanik 19, Aditya Shrivastava run out (Karan) 29, Saransh Jain b Mukesh 12, Kumar Kartikeya c Akash b Pramanik 6, Avesh Khan b Pramanik 0, Anubhav Agarwal (not out) 30, Gaurav Yadav c Abishek b Pramanik 0; Extras (b-4, lb-10, w-9): 23; Total (in 39.5 overs): 241.
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-67, 3-82, 4-125, 5-179, 6-201, 7-204, 8-204, 9-217.
Bengal bowling: Mukesh 7-0-35-2, Shahbaz 14-0-77-1, Akash 4-0-18-1, Pramanik 10.5-0-51-5, Manoj Tiwary 3-0-22-0, Karan Lal 1-0-24-0.

Chennaiyin beats East Bengal, ends win-drought

ISL-9

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennaiyin FC finally managed to end its two-month-long win drought when it beat East Bengal FC 2-0 to get its fifth win of the season here at the Nehru Stadium on Sunday.

The home side came out of the blocks aggressively and dominated possession but, at the same time, squandered many chances early in the match.

Early in the second half, moments after Rahim Ali missed a sitter in front of the goal, Chennaiyin FC went ahead, thanks to an own goal from Lalchungnunga in the 49th minute.

On target: Rahim Ali fires in Chennaiyin's second against East Bengal. R. RAGU

CFC's Julius Duker set it up when he took a quick free-kick to release Anirudh Thapa on the left side. Thapa then sent an accurate cross into the box, where Lalchungnunga tried to clear it from a charging Kwame Karikari but slotted it in, much to the delight of the home fans.

The home team doubled the lead in the 87th after Edwin Vanspaul beat two defenders to assist Rahim Ali, who went past the East Bengal 'keeper Kamaljit Singh and tapped it in to help Chennaiyin post a win after eight matches.

The result:
Chennaiyin FC 2 (Lalchungnunga 49-og, Rahim Ali 87) bt East Bengal FC 0.

Unadkat released from Test squad to play Ranji final

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Pace bowler Jaydev Unadkat was on Sunday released from the Indian squad for the second Test against Australia so that he can play in the Ranji Trophy final for Saurashtra, the BCCI said on Sunday. The 31-year-old Undakat will add more firepower to Saurashtra, which will take on Bengal in the title clash from February 16.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Parvez Ahmed emerges champion

Parvez Ahmed defeated Akaash Ashok Kumar by 94 pins (433-339) in the final of the Karnataka State ranking tenpin bowling.

Special prizes: **Highest average in 6 game block (Men)**: Parvez Ahmed (206.83); **Highest average in 18 game block (Men)**: Parvez Ahmed (197.89); **Highest average in 6 game block (Women)**: J. Preemal (174.00); **Highest ranked women bowler**: J. Preemal (10th).

Parvez Ahmed and Akaash Ashok Kumar.

Roots FC prevails over Warriors

Roots Football School edged out Warriors 3-2 in the 'B' division football league here.

The result: Roots FS 3 (V. Darshan 14, Chris Shawn 35, 46) bt Warriors FC 2 (Heman Veerasimha 7, A. Saleem 19).